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MISCELLANEOUS

WORKS,

CONSISTING OF

ESSAYS

POLITICAL and MORAL.

By *ERASMUS PHILIPS*, Esq;

LONDON:

Printed for Mr. WALLER, over-against *Fetter-Lane*, *Fleet-street*; Mr. LEWIS, near *Tom's* Coffee-House, *Covent-Garden*; Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. JOLIFFE, in St. *James's-Street*.

M DCCLI.

WORKS.

ESSAYS

Political and Literary.

TO

The Right Honourable -------.

SIR,

IT is a Cunning which moſt Writers have, to dedicate their Works to ſome Perſon of Eminence, in Order to engage the Publick in their Favour.

As I have more Need of this Indulgence than any other, ſo, Sir, I am oblig'd to addreſs myſelf to you for your Protection, not only becauſe you hold one of the firſt Poſts in the Government; but, becauſe, you poſſeſs innumerable great Qualities, which render you eſteem'd by Mankind.

As you, Sir, have the Power of making People ſpeak what they don't think, and ſometimes of making them think before they ſpeak, I ſhall have Occaſion for your Intereſt, in this double Capacity; and by this little Artifice, my Readers of every Denomination, will ſpeak well of me.

You know, Sir, better than any Man in *England*, that an Ounce of Favour is worth more

more than a Pound of Merit; you know alſo, Sir, that Merit is not always the Means to obtain Favour; I don't mean political Merit (if it is worthy of that Name) for, by the ſad Neceſſity of the Times, that muſt be conſider'd, and paid for; but I mean, Merit, as it is generally underſtood, which, like Gold, has its Standard, and is current amongſt all Sorts of People.

But, as it is my Misfortune, not to poſſeſs either of theſe Degrees of Merit, I throw myſelf entirely upon your Generoſity; and this Quality, Sir, is ſo abounding in you, that all Sorts and Denominations of Men have felt the good Effects of it; Whig and Tory, Country and Court Party, Oppoſition and Conformity, have alternately ſhared your meaſured Beneficence; ſo that, as your Influence is general, a very ſmall Portion of your Benevolence is ſufficient to make me conſider'd; and indeed, Sir, I think, your Policy is concern'd to grant me this Requeſt; for, perhaps, the World may think, that you have had intereſted Views in what you have done for other People; and that muſt of Courſe, leſſen the Value of this great Virtue; but when they ſhall ſee, that you extend it even to me, you cannot be ſuſpected; they will then be convinced, that it is inherent to your noble Nature, an Emanation from that Spring of Goodneſs, which poſſeſſes your whole Mind, and means to render every Body happy.

Another

Another Motive which ſhould engage you to have ſome Conſideration for me, is, Sir, *that it will coſt you Nothing*; this is conformable to that Frugality which you have always profeſs'd, and as wiſely have executed; I know very well, the Clamours which have been raiſed againſt you for Profuſion; but theſe came from Men, who were angry that they had not the fingering of thoſe many Millions which were employ'd in attacking our Enemies, and defending ourſelves, in the laſt unfortunate War; but I will venture to ſay, that there never were ſuch Sums raiſed at ſo ſmall an Expence, nor ever diſtributed with ſo much Parſimony.

But the ſtrongeſt Reaſon I have for imploring your Protection (much ſtronger than all the reſt) is, that happy Talent you have of making all Sorts of People think the ſame Way; you have brought about a Coalition, which has reconcil'd the moſt oppoſite Intereſts; this Meaſure, is the greateſt Effort of Politicks; a Meaſure, which is juſtified by the Dignity and the Uſefulneſs of the Perſons you brought over; a Meaſure which has entirely united a divided Nation.

But, Sir, there is one Thing more for you to do, and which only can be done ſecurely but by you, which is, to provide for an Interval (which Heaven avert) yet which by the ſad Neceſſity of human Condition may happen too ſoon.

It is not ſo much your Character as a Man of Buſineſs, as that of your Integrity, and honeſt Mind, which will gain you the Conſent and Approbation of the whole Nation, in this weighty Affair; and theſe Qualities upon this Occaſion, will give you greater Authority, than any Stretch of Power can do. This, Sir, will place you higher in the Temple of Fame, than Cardinal *Richlieu*, Cardinal *Ximenes*, Don *Lewis de Haro*, or any of your Predeceſſors have ever been. This, Sir, will make the reſt of your Days paſs without Oppoſition, becauſe, Mankind will think, that they have nothing to fear under your Adminiſtration.

I am, Sir,

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POLI-

POLITICAL REFLECTIONS,

Written in the Year 1722.

CHAP. I.

HUMAN Wiſdom, weak and ſhort-ſighted, was never able to provide againſt all the Accidents of future Times; Millions of Circumſtances ariſe that baffle all the Endeavours of our antient Law-makers, and elude the Force of the moſt binding Ordinances; hence it comes to paſs, that all Governments in the Univerſe have had their Periods; and tho' ſome have ſtretched many Ages, yet all are ſwallow'd up in Time; ſome by foreign Invaſion, ſome by civil War, and ſome by neglecting to put their own Laws in Execution, or advancing new ones in Prejudice to the old Conſtitution, which always has, and ever will be obtained by Corruption.

Cyrus, the Founder of the *Perſian* Empire, left ſuch a Syſtem of Government behind him, as ſupported the Monarchy under a Race of

weak Princes, and had the ſame martial Diſcipline been preſerv'd that raiſed that Empire, it had not been made ſo eaſy a Prey to the Conqueror. *Rome* itſelf, proud *Rome*, who vaunted in the Dominion of the whole World, fell at laſt a Sacrifice to a Fellow-citizen; thoſe Laws, which were wont to be employed for the publick Utility, became at laſt the uſurp'd Property of a private Perſon; and that military Power, which was neceſſary to ſupport the Uſurpation, got at laſt the Dominion; 'till by the Ambition and Perfidy of the Commanders, who invited the barbarous Nations to their Aſſiſtance, that vaſt Empire under no Law, came to be parcell'd out into ſmall Principalities: 'Tis then the Buſineſs of a State to have a ſtrict Obſervance of their antient Laws, and rarely to admit of any Relaxation; all Indulgences weaken a State; they are Inlets for Corruption, and undermine the Safety of the Community: 'Tis yet more dangerous to make a new Law in direct Oppoſition of the old; the Truth of this appears in the Creation of the *Decemviri* of *Rome*, where both the Power of Conſuls and Tribunes being ſuſpended, the Empire was near falling under their Tyranny: So King *Charles* I. loſt his Life, by making the Parliament perpetual; and that very Parliament was ſubdu'd by the Army which they had raiſed themſelves, without any Warrant of Law.

There is an inflexible Propenſity in a People to their antient Conſtitution, which nothing but a thorough Conqueſt can ever efface: Amuſements and Artifice have prevailed for a Time, but always have been return'd with Confuſion to the Projectors. I would not be ſuppoſed to be ſo tenacious of the old Forms of Government,

vernment, as not to admit of new ones in Order to the Preſervation of a State; I am very ſenſible, no Kingdom can ſubſiſt without them; for the Safety of a Prince does not only depend upon the proper Uſe he can make of his own Subjects, but ſometimes upon ſuch Allies as think it their Intereſt to preſerve him for their own Sakes, againſt the encroaching Power of an ambitious Neighbour: In ſuch Caſes, extraordinary Sums muſt be raiſed and Troops levied in Proportion to the Danger: Ballance of Power juſtifies the Title of War, and the Apprehenſion of Slavery muſt be ſuſpended to ſecure the publick Liberty; but ſtill all theſe extraordinary Preparations are to be carried on as near as poſſible upon the Plan of the old Laws. The Armies raiſed by the Prince are to be ſubſiſted by the People, and not to be more, or any longer than the preſent Exigency; and indeed it is an unanſwerable Argument of the Sincerity of a Governor, when the military Command is conferr'd on Men of Quality and Fortune: People of this Condition are not likely to run into arbitrary Meaſures, as was verified in King *James* the ſecond's Time, who, tho' he had an Army ſufficient to have conquered his People, was almoſt univerſally deſerted by his own Officers, that were Men of Diſtinction, *Cromwell*, one of the wiſeſt private Men that ever obtained the Sovereignty, was aware of this Danger, and in his Progreſs to Power, hardly ever gave a conſiderable Command, but to ordinary Perſons, ſuch as he knew depended upon his Welfare.

We cannot have a greater Inſtance of the Sincerity of our Governors, than in the Reſolution taken to lay ſuch an Impoſition on thoſe,

who eternally give us Diſquiet, as will, if they have any Regard totheir own Preſervation, force them to leave a Country, in which they never can hope to pay a leſs Tribute, or make them ſeriouſly reflect on the Errors of their former Lives, and become one People under one Prince, from whom alone they can expect Liberty and true Happineſs.

CHAP II.

WHAT *Matchiavel* tells us of the Difficulties that an Uſurper has in ſecuring his new Conqueſts, is certainly verified in a Prince who comes to a Crown by an Election of the Majority of the People, while there is another Title depending to his Dominions. "For they are both "equally obliged to diſguſt their Subjects by "extraordinary Taxes, and quartering Soldiers." The only Remedy for this Inconvenience is abſolutely to extinguiſh the Family of the former Prince, or thoſe who have eminently diſtinguiſhed themſelves in Support of the old Title.

And I take this to be the moſt frugal and moſt ſecure Way to keep a Nation in his Intereſt; for thoſe very People who contributed to bring about a Revolution, in Order to ſecure their Liberties, will never think them ſafe under a new Adminiſtration, (however juſt and undeſigning) who takes the ſame Means to preſerve them, as the other did to deſtroy them; Men, that have run ſuch Hazards, will naturally expect to be ſecure in their own Way, and not by the Model of Miniſters, however prudent and diſintereſted.

It

It will be in vain to tell People, that the Diſaffection is ſo general, that they are obliged for the publick Security, to keep up anun accuſtom'd military Force; they will naturally aſk, what are the Cauſes of their Diſcontents, and rather impute it to Male-adminiſtration, than Diſloyalty; and the Courſe of their Argument muſt tend to ſay, the Miniſters raiſe Armies to ſupport unwarrantable Power.

Policy therefore teaches us to let out all that ill Blood at once which may endanger our Security; the Memory of a violent Action wears out by Degrees; whereas he that commits frequent Acts of Juſtice, tho' for his own Security, will be look'd upon as cruel, and in a ſhort Time be thought intolerable: 'tis a miſtaken Lenity to forgive Traytors, their Inclinations will be ſtill for their Party, and one Eſcape from Danger will encourage them to run into another. *That one Maxim, that a Multitude can't be puniſh'd, has been the Foundation of all the Rebellions in this World.*

There is nothing ſo common, as to ſee thoſe very People in the foremoſt Ranks againſt you, whom you have ſet at Liberty by an Act of Indemnity, and certainly a Prince is in more Danger from a ſecond Attempt, than he was from a firſt, in as much as thoſe People have ſeen their Miſtakes before, and make a better Proviſion againſt the Diſappoinments they may meet with, from whence one may infer, *That he that adviſes Indifference, or Forgiveneſs in the Caſe of one Rebellion, hopes for the falſe Merit of being again conſiderable in the Suppreſſion of another.*

CHAP.

CHAP III.

AS there is no Government in the World, where there are not a great many diſaffected Members; ſo I believe it probable, that *England* furniſhes more diſcontented People than any other Kingdom in the World. I mean of more different Sorts; for beſides thoſe that mutiny upon the common Principles of Religion and Policy, which is ſtill varied in a thouſand different Shapes, our Governors find a greater Uneaſineſs from the Pretenders to Merit; no ſooner are they ſeated in the miniſterial Office, but every Man puts a Price upon his Services, which, if not rated according to his own Eſtimate, are immediately turned againſt the Miniſtry; but however, they are happy in this, that they have a Power to oblige more who can ſerve them eſſentially, than to apprehend any great Danger from the ineffectual Rage of their Enemies: We have ſeen ſome Inſtances of this Sort, where, though the Guilt has been almoſt univerſally avow'd, yet the Miniſter has been brought off by his ſuperior Talents and Sufficiency.

Every Age has given us Examples of Complaints againſt Miniſters, and we rarely have ſeen when their Attempts upon the Liberties of the People have been flagrant, but they have met with ſome exemplary Puniſhment. I need not Inſtance the *Spencers*, *Michael de la Pole*, Earl of *Suffolk*, Cardinal *Wolſey*, the Duke of *Buckingham*, &c. for theſe were Miniſters to Princes, who, I think, one may ſay, had more abſolute Power veſted in them, than in any ſince the Revolution. Indeed, we had ſome Impeach-

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ments and Accusations for Misdemeanors since, which have come to nothing till the Beginning of this happy Reign, where Bills of Attainder have passed upon wicked Ministers, and we ought to believe this sufficient to deter any from falling into the like Practices for the future.

Not but the Publick has now and then received some sensible Injustice, but it falling lightly upon every Body, no one prosecuted it with Animosity equal to the Crime; indeed, the last Misfortune * has been attended with worse Consequences, because great Numbers were immediately and heavily loaded; this has created a new Species of Malecontents, and turn'd Multitudes of their former Friends against the Ministry, who abstract not the Persons from the Office; they say, the Ministry took away half their Property, and they will never be satisfied with any Ministry, that does not bring it back again to them, not considering the Impossibility of such an Attempt, and the Impracticability, without a new Fund to make their Condition any better, which must retrench upon the Property of some body else.

As for those People who plead an indefeasible, hereditary Right, they certainly can have no Satisfaction, till they have the Prince, who they pretend has in him the Right of Inheritance; but for the rest, who wish well to the present Establishment, and under which alone we can hope to enjoy our holy Religion, and invaluable Liberties, 'tis evident their Expectations are the Cessation of Taxes, and a frugal Management, in order to pay off the publick Debts; certainly no Nation ever enjoyed so serene a Tranquillity, as we did, before the bringing in

* *South Sea* Company.

upon us that fatal *South Sea* Scheme: For tho' People might complain of the Burthen of Taxes, yet the Value of their Eſtates was ſo conſiderably enhanced by the Circulation of publick Credit, that few were ſenſible of the Burthen, for nobody can diſallow, when Money is cheap, the Value of all Commodities muſt riſe, which muſt enable the landed Man to bear the Demands upon him with leſs Difficulty; but this fatal Miſmanagement has ſwallow'd up all Reaſon, and buried Diſcretion in Reſentment; and I wiſh it has not ſtruck at the very Root of Loyalty.

CHAP IV.

IF we look into the Practice of the World, we ſhall find, that all ſettled Maxims of Government have proved ineffectual, and he only ſucceeded, who accommodated his Conduct to the preſent Humours of the People, and Neceſſity of the Times; *Cæſar* periſh'd by too great a Confidence, and *Tiberius* was ruin'd by his own Maxims of Artifice and Diſſimulation. Cardinal *Richlieu* always declared open War againſt his Enemies, and ſucceeded. But Cardinal *Mazarine* courted his Foes, in order to ruin them; thus we ſee Men undone at one time, and ſucceed at another by the ſame Operations.

Some People from hence conclude, that Fate and Fortune have a ſuperior Direction of our Councils, and in Spight of all our Wiſdom, Affairs will have their own Event; certain it is, that whoever has to deal with Men of different

Paſſions

Paſſions and Intereſts, to ſucceed, muſt often change his Meaſures; but the only Art lies in ſecuring the Majority, which is always to be obtained one Way, that is, by framing your Conduct according to the Laws of the Land and Equity; all Actions founded upon Law carry a Reverence with them, and tho' they are a little againſt the Grain, yet People are not aſhamed to obey them, becauſe in ſome Senſe or other they have contributed to the making of that Law, ſo that it is an Act of their own Conſent; whereas all Ordinances that have not this Warrant, ſtrike at the very Liberties of Mankind; it is like putting Manacles or Fetters upon Men, ignominious Shackles, that no one can bear; and therefore, it is a very great Misfortune, when any Laws made in favour of the People, are by the Neceſſity of the Times oblig'd to be ſuſpended, they will always complain, and becauſe they do not immediately ſee the Danger, will ſcarce believe it: 'Tis certain then, Prudence in any Government, to fall into thoſe Meaſures as ſeldom as poſſible; and the only Way to avoid it, is to ſtrike at the very Root of thoſe who diſturb you; Terror will coſt you leſs than Love, and be better attended; for People will do that for Fear, which they will refuſe upon any other Obligation.

Any Abatement of the Rigour of the Laws, begets new Criminals, like our late Act of Tranſportation, which has occaſioned more Felons in one Month, than were in three before; but tho' Terror be abſolutely neceſſary to keep a Commonwealth in Tranquillity, yet Prudence will teach a Magiſtrate, that he ought at leaſt to ſhew the People, he has a Regard to their Intereſt; which may be done either by enlarg-

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ing their Trade, Abatement of Taxes, or paying of public Debts; these, as they immediately relate to their Property, are very gracious Acts; besides that, the paying of any one Debt gives a Reputation to the rest; and the Value of them increases in proportion to the Security of the Principal; this we saw not long ago in *England*, where upon a Resolution which was taken to pay off some Annuities at Six *per Cent.* the Proprietors were immediately satisfied with Five; and the same Thing would happen with those who are now at Five *per Cent.* if care were taken to pay them off, unless they accept of Four *per Cent.*

CHAP V.

THERE is nothing attended with worse Consequences to a State, than by affixing opprobrious and irreconcileable Names upon one another: Thus one half of the People call the other Villains, without examining into their Characters, or regarding their Conduct; 'tis enough for them, if a Man is seen to speak, or eat with one they do not like; he is accounted a *Jacobite*, that sometimes votes for the Liberty of his Country: On the contrary, he is giving up every Thing to despotick Power, that sometimes gives his Assent to Things necessary for the Preservation of the State: *Whig* and *Tory* are the Words of Imputation, and every Man must be listed under these two Banners, whether he will, or no. The Ministers of each Side have play'd these Names successively against one another; a *Tory* Ministry has de-

declared the *Whigs* Enemies to the Church and Monarchy. The *Whigs* have eſtabliſhed the Church, and at the Expence of their Lives and Fortunes, got a King of their own; and impute, with too much Reaſon, the Tendency of the *Tories* to Popery and arbitrary Power; theſe Imputations now are taken for granted, and to vote on either Side is to have all the Vices lay'd upon that Party; a Bitterneſs has proceeded from hence, which may one Time or another prove fatal to our Conſtitution.

But, I am far from thinking this Evil without a Remedy, tho' I am ſure the Cure of it muſt begin very high: If Men of Integrity, of all Appellations, were taken into the Miniſtry, this Confidence would remove that Rancour and Animoſity which now daily improves, and they would by this Commerce, inſenſibly ſlide into one another's Eſteem, and perhaps continue ſo, 'till the Names of Diſtinction were loſt. Indeed, it is not to be wonder'd at, that a Man of Honour and Fortune gives a Looſe to Revenge, when conſcious of no criminal Thought againſt the Government, he ſees himſelf branded with Infamy; look'd upon unworthy of publick Truſt, and indeed, as a Traytor, that wanted only an Opportunity to put his ſuppos'd Wiſhes into Execution; hence it comes, that Princes are reckon'd to have Enemies among ſome Sort of Men, becauſe they are refuſed the Opportunities of ſhewing their Friendſhip. Queen *Elizabeth*, whoſe Maxims were founded on the beſt Policy, maintained two different Factions at Court; by this Means, ſhe had a juſt Repreſentation of Men and Things, and was able to ſteer that Courſe which moſt conduced to the publick

Good.

Good. Honour and Intereſt are the two great Springs of all our Actions; if you take away from Men, the Means of enlarging their Talents theſe Ways, you make them deſperate, and they will run into Extravagancies (they would be otherwiſe aſhamed of) to obtain them.

Liberty is the darling Principle of the Soul, and all thinking Men know, it is to be found in a parliamentary Conſtitution; that *Jure divino* Right of Princes is but in few Peoples Mouths, and in the Thoughts of fewer, and no wiſe Men will make Uſe of this Argument, but when they are driven to Extremities.

'Tis natural enough for People to believe any Change will be for the better, when they think their Condition inſupportable; if Miniſters did not put ſuch ſtrong Guards upon the Avenues to the Fountain of Favour, they would have but little Oppoſition, and their Princes meet with leſs Diſquiet.

CHAP VI.

AS it is impoſſible for any Government ſo to deport itſelf, as not to give Diſcontent to ſome Sort of People; ſo it as unlikely, that it ſhould enjoy an uninterrupted Repoſe, and not meet with ſome enterprizing Men, who to aggrandize themſelves, wou'd ſubvert the antient Eſtabliſhment; the Ambition and Revenge of Ill-men have often endangered a State; but the moſt frequent and moſt dangerous Conſpiracies, are thoſe that are founded upon the Principles of Religion; for this being every Body's Concern, it becomes more extenſive, and People come

come with greater Alacrity into an Affair, where the worſt Event is, the Salvation of their Souls: this Enthuſiaſm tranſports Men to be altogether careleſs of their Perſons, and what Life is ſafe, which has to deal with ſuch Adverſaries?

Moſt of the Conſpiracies we have had in *England*, ſince the Reformation have been of this Sort, except that wild Project of the Earl of *Eſſex*'s in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Days; my Lord *Ruſſel*'s in King *Charles* the ſecond's, and a few more, all thoſe who have given us moſt Danger, have been founded upon the Plan of Popery; here has been the eternal Source of all the Machinations which ſometimes have endanger'd the Conſtitution itſelf.

Lewis XIV. of *France*, in Order to ſecure himſelf from all the Troubles that might ariſe from the reformed Church in his Dominions, reſolv'd upon the utter Extirpation of it, which he did effectually, and ever after ſat eaſy on his Throne, in reſpect of inteſtine Commotions, (for I look upon the Affair of the *Cevennois* to be inconſiderable) a cruel Piece of Policy, but of ſuch a Sort as gave him the greateſt Security; on the contrary, the *Hollanders* admit of all Sorts of Religion in their State, and (except the *Jews*) they almoſt equally participate the Benefits of their Laws, and yet we rarely hear of any Enterprizes againſt their State.

But then indeed, this is to be conſider'd that an avow'd Allegiance to the State, entitles them to Places of Profit, and Preferments of Truſt; I will not determine which Method is moſt prudent; but certainly, we may impute moſt of the Conſpiracies againſt our Government to that Permiſſion which a People who think themſelves

ſelves injured, have to live among us; the very Elements of Popery teach its Votaries to propagate their Faith by any Means whatſoever, and this Kingdom never will be free from Conſpiracies, 'till the Roman Religion be the eſtabliſh'd Religion of the Country; and we have nothing more likely to prevent the Effects of them, than to make ſome People have a greater Advantage in the Diſcovery, than they could have in the Execution.

'Twas a dangerous Piece of Policy in *Walſingham* to hazard Queen *Elizabeth*'s Life in the ſlow Detection of the Actors in *Babington*'s Plot; 'twas poſſible, that *Gifford* might have made ſome ſlight Diſcoveries, in Order to have amuſed the Miniſtry, 'till the Time of Execution.

The Aſſaſſination-plot in King *William*'s Time might have taken effect by the ſame Management; beſides, why ſhould any Miniſter riſque the precious Life of a Prince, for a barbarous Curioſity of knowing how many People will come into an Affair of this Sort? 'Tis poſſible that ſome Men might never think of ſuch an Attempt for the future, if they were ſtartled in the Beginning, and it is as abſolutely neceſſary for a Miniſter, to avoid the Imputation of Cruelty, as 'tis to deſerve that of Juſtice.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

THere is no Condition of Life attended with ſo many Difficulties, as that of a firſt Miniſter, whether it be in an abſolute or limited Monarchy; the very Station he holds contracts him the Malignity of the Great, and even the common Faults, inſeparable to human Nature, are charged to his Account by the Multitude, as the greateſt Crimes; nor does he often find a Place of Repoſe in the Breaſt of his Prince; for if he be advanced by Favour, he is obliged to do whatſoever he commands him, and then nothing is more inconſtant than the Heart of Man; if he be raiſed to that Dignity by the Neceſſity of Affairs, the leaſt Miſcarriage may ruin him; for a Prince will not eaſily forgive a Perſon a Fault, who ſeems in ſome Sort to be impoſed upon him.

Cardinal *Wolſey* is an eminent Inſtance of the former; being raiſed, from a private Station of Life, to the greateſt Power, by Favour of his Prince, he was by the ſame Prince deprived of every Thing, for his Inſincerity in the Affair of the Divorce of Queen *Katherine*.

The Duke of *Buckingham*, indeed, maintained his Place in his Prince's Favour, by an univerſal Compliance to his Will; but then he had been (if not prevented by his Interpoſition) a Sacrifice to the People; it is certainly a very difficult Employment to ſteer ſo equally between deſpotic Power and Popularity, that you do not ſtrike againſt one or other of theſe Rocks; and it is ſtill more difficult than it was; becauſe formerly, in buying off one Man, you bought off

off many; whereas now, every one puts a Value upon himſelf, and his Price is in proportion to his Expence; ſo that he, who is not actually obliged by Benefits, becomes an Enemy. In that which was called the Penſionary Parliament of King *Charles* the Second, very few received Wages for doing their Buſineſs; and the memorable, but true Story of 10,000 *l.* left in a Hackney-Coach, is a convincing Inſtance of the moderate Expence of thoſe Times. It is not to be wondered at, that in ſubſequent Times, the Demand ſhould riſe higher, and that where every Individual found himſelf neceſſary, he ſhould inſiſt upon the Merit of his Compliance: But 'tis indeed ſurpriſing, that Men ſhould think of purchaſing their Aſſent to that which they would concur in without it. I cannot help believing, that the Majority would always incline to the real Intereſt of their Country, if there was not the leaſt Expectation of a Reward: Beſides, if we conſider how high the Demand may be, one Time or other, and the Neceſſity there will be of Parſimony, the Difficulties will be unſurmountable, let whoſoever be in the Adminiſtration.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

PRIDE, Power and Intereſt, are the three great Springs which direct the Actions of the Generality of Mankind. It is to theſe we owe Heroes and Stateſmen, Poets, Pimps, *&c.* from theſe alſo we may derive the Origin of the Parties, which have infeſted moſt Parts of *Europe* at all Times; the Deſire of ruling, and dividing the Properties of the People, having been covered with a Maſque, either of Religion, Title, or Liberty, to amuſe the Vulgar, and domineer over them; *Luther* broke off with the Court of *Rome*, on the Account of Intereſt: And *Calvin* finding at that Time the People eaſy for any Impreſſion, drew ſtill farther from the popiſh Pageantry, and made himſelf the Head of a powerful Party. The Duke of *Guiſe*, the ambitious bloody Duke of *Guiſe*, made Uſe of the Pretence of Religion, to extirpate the *Huguenots*, and obtain more than regal Power, 'till at laſt he became a Victim to his Ambition. *Moliniſm* and *Janſeniſm* now divide the People of *France*, and under the Banners of *Grace efficace* and *Grace ſuffiſante*, the Leaders ſtruggle the one to keep, the other to take Poſſeſſion of the fat Livings of that Country. The People of *England* have, for many Years paſt, been knocking their Heads one againſt the other for the Sake of a few wicked Leaders, who meant no more by their pompous Titles of Liberty and Property, Church and Crown, than to get the Plunder into their own Hands, and then to ſit at their Eaſe to enjoy it. But *Europe* has not only been the Scene of this Roguery; for we

can trace the same Conduct in Countries more remote, and of a much more antient Date: Even *China* furnishes us Examples of this Sort, as you find in the Account which *Pere Du Halde* gives us of that Country. The following Lines are an Extract from him; *The twelfth of this Cycle died* Tyen-tsong, *the* Tartar *King, who was succeeded by his Son* Tsong-te; *this* Tsong-te *was a very affable good natur'd Prince; and as he had from his Youth been bred amongst the* Chinese *he had acquired their Genius and Manners; this gain'd him the Esteem of the* Chinese Mandarines, *who fell off insensibly from the Emperor, whose ill Success had quite altered his Temper; he grew thoughtful and uneasy; this, and all the following Years of his Reign, was a continued Series of Robberies, and intestine Wars, the Number of the Malecontents were immense, but at last, they listed under two different Banners, one was called* Li, *the other* Chang: *But both agreed to divide the Riches of the Nation between them, tho' they made Use of different Pretexts to amuse the People, and make them believe that they meant Parsimony, and a Concern for their Interest and Property.*

This should not be at all surprizing, were Riches and Luxury abound; the same Springs of Action move a *Chinese*, which move a *European*; for Human-nature is the same in every Part of the World, and there is nothing but Education, Climate and Commerce which determine the different Modes of Life.

I must own, that at some Times, and on some Occasions, an honest disinterested Zeal has put this Nation in Action, almost unanimously, to oppose tyrannical Measures, and to preserve their Laws, as in the Year 1641, and 1688, and more remotely

remotely in the Time of King *John*, and *Henry* the third; but I may venture to ſay, that ſince the Revolution, all the Struggles and Oppoſitions which have been made, were all Banter, and only deſigned (except in a very few Caſes) to get the Places, Honours, and Preferments of their Antagoniſts. And this will always be the Game, 'till the Miniſters who ſhall be in Poſſeſſion, divide and ſubdivide with the Oppoſition, and then they will be at Reſt, 'till a new Set ariſes, which will be able to give them as much Trouble as their Predeceſſors. So that I may prophecy, that the People will never get much by the Change, becauſe Corruption has ſlided into every Part of our Country, and the Conſtituents agree to ſell themſelves.

Money being the Means to Power, will always be employ'd to procure it; an eaſy Method that requires no great Capacity in the Diſtribution of it; and is ſure to be refunded with exorbitant Intereſt: For theſe Reaſons no Reformations can be hop'd for, 'till ſuch Times happen, that no good Man would wiſh to live in, and which may occaſion the Government to return to its firſt Principles.

THE STATE OF THE NATION

With Reſpect to its

TRADE, DEBTS, and MONEY.

Written in the Year 1725.

THE STATE OF THE NATION

With Reference to its Trade, Duty, and Money.

TO THE

KING.

SIR,

AMBITION, which in one Shape or other tempts all Mankind, has led me to aſk Protection from the higheſt Object of human Greatneſs and Felicity.

For to be the common Father of above ten Millions of People, to govern them by Laws of their own making, and to ſhew no Inſtances of Power, but what is for their Benefit and Protection, is true Greatneſs; and to ſee them in the Poſſeſſion of a profuſe Plenty and Fulneſs of Satisfaction, and to hear them, as often as they have an Opportunity, expreſs their Gratitude in the moſt dutiful Acknowledgments of their Happineſs under you, is true Felicity; at

leaſt, Sir, 'tis your Felicity who ſeem born for the Benefit of Mankind, and who have made the Good of others your chief Care, as it has been the firſt Object of your Thoughts.

But Providence, not only indulgent to us at preſent, has given us the delightful Proſpect of never ceaſing Happineſs for our Poſterity in your illuſtrious Family; the numerous Offspring of this Royal Stock being a certain Bar to thoſe inteſtine Commotions which might otherways ariſe from a diſputed Title, and ſwallow up our Liberties for ever.

This is a Bleſſing we ought to value as what is moſt dear to us. On this Baſis ſtands our Religion, Lives, Liberties, Eſtates; and that this Foundation may ever remain, are the ſincere Hopes and Wiſhes of, Sir,

Your moſt faithful

Subject and moſt

devoted Servant,

ERASMUS PHILIPS.

THE PREFACE.

I Muſt own myſelf very unequal to the Taſk I have undertaken, which required greater Experience in publick Buſineſs than I could poſſibly have; but that which incited me to enter into this Affair, was, that I found ſome Men ſo gloomy, that they thought us in a worſe Condition than we really are, and that it would be impoſſible to pay the publick Debts; while others were ſo ſanguine to believe it the eaſieſt Thing in the World; nay, ſome are ſo credulous as to think, that this Debt of fifty three Millions, may not only be paid off, but ſtill ſubſiſt in the Creditors Hands.

I could wiſh that Error had no Place in the Mind of Man; and that while I am endeavouring to undeceive the World, I may not fall into the Snare I would avoid. But this I am ſure of, there is no Man of ſo little Importance in Life, but that he may contribute Something to the Advantage of the Society he lives in; and if he who conducts us to Truth is moſt laudable, he who endeavours to find it out, is not to be diſcommended. It is in this Search I have taken ſome Pains; and if I have given a probable Account of our Affairs, it may ſerve to quiet the Minds

Minds of the desponding, and damp the Insolence of such, who from a mistaken Notion of our Weakness at Home, may be misled to disturb us from Abroad. But let them know that in the Year 1727. we shall have near four Millions *per Annum* in Case of a Rupture with an Enemy, without anticipating any new Fund, or breaking in upon the old.

Because some People seem to doubt the Truth of this Assertion, I thought it proper to explain to them in what Manner these Sums may be raised.

The present sinking Fund, with the Augmentation occasioned by the Excise of Tea, Coffee and Chocolate, may be computed at *per Annum*

	£.
	700,000
1 *per Cent.* of the Interest of 33 Millions subscribed into *South-Sea* Stock, which in the Year 1727 will be at	330,000
The Land-Tax at 4 s. in the Pound	2,000,000
The Malt-Tax above	600,000
Total	3,630,000

As to the Strength and Power of *England*, it never was greater. We have now above two Hundred Men of War, a Force infinitely superior to any other Nation. As to her Wealth, her Trade, her Buildings, her Stock of all Sorts, her Gardens, Pictures, Jewels, the profusion of Plate in private Houses, shew such an Encrease that the most envious Man must own, that tho' Luxury has a great Share in this Magnificence, yet to last so long a Time, there must be some Foundation of real Substance.

But

But that is ſelf-evident: Yet there are ſome who would inſinuate, that all this Pomp and Shew is nothing but Tinſel, a falſe Luſtre; that we owe more than we are worth; that our Money is diminiſhed, and that we have little left but Paper Credit amongſt us.

To obviate ſo ill grounded a Reflection, I have endeavoured to ſhew by what Channels our Specie has gone out; and in this Affair I have made large Allowances. I have endeavoured likewiſe to make it appear, that even in the Time of War, as well as in Peace, great Sums of Money have been poured in upon us, ſo that it may be probable, that even now the Bullion may be equal to what it was in 88, throwing the coined Gold and Silver into the Heap; though I am inclined to believe we have leſs ſilver Money: But then ſurely no one will deny, that there is not more Plate worked up for Family Uſes now, than in the Period of Time above mentioned.

'Tis a hard Matter to trace all the Channels, by which Gold and Silver make their Flux and Reflux in and out of a Country, ſo as to meaſure the Quantity exactly. But there are ſome Symptoms which certainly demonſtrate whether a Nation gains or loſes by a Commerce in general; great Numbers of People, a rich Commonalty, Money at low Intereſt, Land at a great Value, a quick Circulation, are ſuch certain Proofs of the Riches of a Country, that no Man ſeriouſly can deny.

And if we conſider only the Greatneſs of our Imports, which has for thirty Years been one Year with another four or five Millions viſibly, it is not probable the Merchant would trade at a leſs than 10*l. per Cent.* and the Duty at an Average

verage has been 20*l. per Cent.* ſo that if we could ſuppoſe this Sum to be got clear out of thoſe we trade with, this would amount to above 40 Millions in that Period of Time; nor indeed can it be otherwiſe, when we conſider the Greatneſs of our Expence, and our viſible Eſtate. It is true, it may be objected, the Merchant may gain, when the Nation loſes; but then it is as certain, there has not been for many Years but two Traffics, but what we have gained by; and they were the *French*, and the *Baltick*, upon Account of our naval Stores. Both which, in my Opinion, from what I can collect from them that are acquainted with the Trade of thoſe Countries, have been abundantly miſtaken, eſpecially that of *France*; their Wine is a bulky Commodity, and bought cheap at firſt Hand; their Silks are worn by few, and beſides theſe, unleſs it be for Paper, Cork, Capers, and Roſin, we have but little Dealings with them.

As for the *Baltick* Trade, it has been very expenſive to us; but then out of this Expence we muſt deduct what we get by Frieght from other Countries, which never can be exactly computed; and therefore I have not ſo much as reckoned it in the Balance of the Nation's Traffick, but without doubt it comes to a conſiderable Sum.

Upon the whole, Probability is the only Path I can tread; and I hope whatever my Succeſs otherwiſe may be, I may appear impartial; for this Maxim I have laid down in Life, rather to be thought to want any Thing than Truth.

OF

THE STATE OF THE NATION, &c.

CHAP I.

Of Trade in general; and particularly of the Trade of England.

TRADE is to the Body politick, as the Blood is to human Body; it diffuſes itſelf by the minuteſt Canals into every Part of a Nation, and gives Life and Vigour to the whole: Without this, no Country can be happy within itſelf, or ſupport herſelf without againſt the Attacks of a powerful Neighbour.

Trade it is that brings us all the Aids, the Conveniencies, the Luxury of Life; 'tis ſhe that encourages

encourages all Arts and Sciences, gives Hopes to Invention, and Riches to Induſtry; Strength, Wiſdom, and Policy are in her Train; Plenty, Liberty, and Happineſs are her perpetual Companions.

Even Money itſelf without Trade, like ſtagnated Water, is of little Uſe to the Proprietor. *Spain* is a living Inſtance of this Truth; the Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico* made that People think themſelves above Induſtry; an Inundation of Gold and Silver ſwept away all uſeful Arts, and a total Neglect of Labour and Commerce has made them as it were Receivers only for the reſt of the World.

On the contrary, *Holland* is the moſt remarkable Inſtance of the Advantages of Trade. It would be needleſs to mention the Feebleneſs of her Origin, or the Smallneſs of her Territory; this Country, the ſtupendous Workmanſhip of Men's Hands, not able to ſupport half her People from her native Product, is at preſent the Seat of Riches and Plenty; notwithſtanding the continual Expence ſhe is at to keep herſelf above Water; notwithſtanding the ſeveral Attacks that have been made upon her by three powerful Monarchies; yet was ſhe able to expend 22 Millions in the War with *France*, from the Year 88 to the Year 97; and in the laſt war with *France* her proportion of the Expence was 45 Millions, viz. for about 12 Years 120,000 Men every Year, which comes to (reckoning their pay one third leſs than ours) near 18,000,000 *Sterling*.

The Charge of their Fleet might be according to their own Account of their Number which is thus:

In

All Ships of the Line, beſides a great many ſmaller Veſſels.

In	
1702	55
1703	50
1704	56
1705	56
1706	54
1707	49
1708	53
1709	50
1710	43
1711	40
Total	506

The Charge at the Rate of 30000 a Ship at an Average, including too their ſmaller Veſſels, will come to	15,090,000
Beſides their Subſidies of 40,000 *Crowns per An.* to the Biſhop of *Munſter*, 100,000 *per An.* from 1704 to 1719 to the Duke of *Wirteinberg*, and 400,000 *Crowns* to the King of *Denmark*, which in all may come to	250,000 *Sterling.*
The Extraordinary of the War in the *Netherlands*.	65,861,821 *Livres.*
Which according to their Way of reckoning 11 *Guilders* to a Pound may be about	6,000,000
Beſides their Expence of Tranſports and Victualling; which might come in all to	4,000,000

And the Charge of about ten thouſand Men in *Spain* and *Portugal* from 1703, *communibus Annis*, to 1712, 1,825,000. allowing Twelvepence *per Diem* to each Man: And this, at a very

very low Computation, brings in their Expence to above 45,000,000 *Sterling*.

A very great Sum to be got in few Years only by Induſtry.

England too has had her Share in the Benefit of Trade, and her preſent Affluence is entirely owing to that Commerce ſhe had with the reſt of the World; the many Millions ſhe has expended ſince the Year 88 have been replaced; and one would think ſuch an Overplus in the Balance of the Account, by the Appearance of the Price of Commodities, that ſhe is become richer than ſhe was at that Time.

Her native Commodities have been to her better than the Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico*. Wool, Lead, Tin, Leather, Butter, Cheeſe, Corn, Tallow, *&c.* the annual Growth of her Soil, beſides her ſeveral Manufactures, have been an inexhauſtible Fund of Wealth: Yet it is probable, that our Negociations with the reſt of the World, for other Things, may bring us three Parts in four more Profit than ariſes from our own native Commodities.

Tobacco, Cotton, Ginger, Sugars, Indigo, Rice, and the reſt of the Plantation Goods have brought us (beſides what was neceſſary for our Conſumption) a Balance from *France*, *Flanders*, *Hambrough*, *Holland* and the eaſt Countries, of above ſix hundred thouſand Pounds a Year.

Our Traffick with the *Eaſt-Indies* for Callicoes, wrought Silks, Drugs, Salt-petre, Raw-ſilk, Tea, Coffee and Cottons, Cotton-yarn, *Carmania* Wool, *&c.* is over and above our own Uſe a great Gain to us

If the Value ſent to *Eaſt-India* be 500,000 Pounds *per Ann.* theirSales have been many Years for above 2,200,000 *per Ann.* of which 'tis ſuppoſed

poſed one Million may be conſumed at Home, the reſt exported; out of this we muſt deduct about 400,000 for the Draw-back, then the Balance of the Account will be above 300,000 Pounds *per Ann.* clear Profit: But then as this Trade has maintained ſo many People beſides, and furniſh'd us with what otherways we muſt have bought of the *Hollanders*, as well as brought down the Price of other *European* Commodities we made Uſe of before our entering into this Trade, it muſt be ſaid the Nation's Profit is annually above a Million. It is not to be underſtood, that on the Balance of this Account we receive above a Million of Specie; but if theſe *Indian* Commodities pay for Goods in theſe ſeveral Parts for which we muſt have otherways ſent Gold or Silver, it is in Effect the ſame Thing.

I ſhall not contend with thoſe that ſay, that this Commerce is not carried on without a Loſs of Silver to us; but then it muſt be conſidered too that we only loſe in Proportion to the reſt of *Europe*, every Nation bearing ſome ſhare in the general Loſs, and ours perhaps leſs than any other.

It is not unlikely but that of the Silver that has been brought into *Europe* ſince 1602, there has been above one hundred and fifty Millions buried in the *Eaſt-Indies*. Had that Money been proportionably diſperſed over the ſeveral Countries of this Part of the World, and our ſhare treble what it is now; if Commodities and Labour too had riſen in a treble Proportion, 'tis no Paradox to affirm, that in Effect, we are as rich now as we ſhould have been under thoſe Circumſtances; Gold and Silver being only valuable as they relate to other Commodities.

But as the Riches of a Country does not consist in any Quantity of Gold and Silver, if it cannot keep them, or acquire more; so our utmost Attention should be to preserve those Methods; and I believe I may with Certainty affirm, that one Way to effect this is to lessen the Price of our Labour, which only can be done by employing the Poor, I mean erecting Work-Houses in every Parish, and obliging them that are able to maintain themselves.

It has been computed, that above 600,000 Pounds are rais'd annually for the Subsistence of the Poor in *England*, by which Account, at the Allowance of eighteen Pence *per* Week to each Person, we may reckon an hundred and fifty thousand Poor that live by Alms; the Labour of these Persons, one with another, at Sixpence *per Diem*, would be worth to the Nation about 1,350,000 Pounds *per Ann.* and how such a Quantity of Labour would operate on the woollen Manufacture, (Spinning and Carding being the chief Employment of these poor People) I leave to every body's Consideration.

Next to the lessening the Price of Labour is to bring down the Price of Wool; it has been in a great Measure owing to the Dearness of our Woollen Manufacture, that both *Holland* and *France*, have thought it worth their Care to set up Looms of their own, to our great, if not irreparable Detriment; and *France* has so far succeeded, that she seems to have no farther Occasion for our Cloths at all.

And *Holland* has found out this Secret of Trade, to buy up our raw Cloths (if I may be allow'd the Expression) and dye and nap them so much cheaper than we, that they are able to undersell us in Goods of our own Produce.

The

The Prohibition of the Export of the *Iriſh* Woollen-manufacture abroad, and the Duty on *Iriſh* Wool imported in *England*, has in a great Meaſure contributed to this; and *Ireland* has for many Years run all Hazards, and ſent an annual Supply of Wool to *France*, which has enabled her to carry on this profitable Employ.

We cannot wonder that ſo neceſſary a Branch of Trade ſhould not eſcape the Obſervation of ſo wiſe a Miniſter as *Colbert*, or the indefatigable *Hollanders*; but why ſo much Remiſſneſs on our Part is unaccountable: And perhaps, it would not be Prudence to give the Reaſons. But we are not to wonder, that any Nation takes the Advantage of our Negligence; nor is it impoſſible that *Spain* herſelf may, in ſome Time, ſet up a Woollen-manufacture of her own; ſo that if we are cut out of this Trade from *Holland*, *France* and *Spain*, in all Probability, they may in Time, ſupply *Denmark*, *Norway*, *Sweden*, *Ruſſia*, and *Germany*, with what they want, as well as furniſh a finer Sort of ſcarlet Drapery for the *Levant* Trade, by which Means we ſhould loſe the Vent of ſeveral Millions *per Annum* *; for ſo much the Export of our Woollen-manufacture from his Majeſty's Dominions have been computed at; over and above the Cloaths ſent to *America*. Though this Proſpect is at a Diſtance, yet certainly it is worth our Attention, the Poſſibility of the Event alone might alarm us.

Our Plantation Trade has been a conſtant Source of Wealth to us, and might yet be im-

* Sir *William Petty*, p. 83. has computed it at 5 Millions, but I believe he has over-rated it.

proved to a much greater Advantage; our naval Stores might, in a great Measure, be supplied from *New England*, and we might save a great Part of four or five hundred thousand Pounds *per Annum* in these Commodities, which we bring from *Denmark*, *Sweden*, and the East Countries. To preserve this valuable Commerce, we ought to have a vigilant Eye on *France*, who has made great Encroachments since our first Settlements there, and watches an Opportunity to divest us of our Properties in that Part of the World.

Perhaps it might be advisable to give some additional Strength to our Forts and Places, to prevent any Surprize that may arise from any Rupture with an Enemy; it being much easier to keep Possession, than to regain it after it is lost.

Our Trade to *Turkey*, which once was esteemed among the best Branches, because it took off so much of our Woollen Manufacture, is in a great Measure gone; and it is thought, we are obliged to send Money every Year to pay the Balance of our Accounts there.

Italy and *Spain* have paid us a constant Tribute.

And *Portugal* for many Years has opened her Treasures with a liberal Hand to us.

France has enjoyed a long Advantage of us in Point of Commerce, but the Necessities of the Government obliging them to raise the Value of their Money so often has cost them very dear; and it may be a Question, whether some Years the Difference of the Exchange did not pay the Balance of the Trade.

Holland, no Doubts, takes off many of our *East India* Goods; and a great Deal of our coarser

ſer Woollen Manufacture; but I am afraid, they do us more Hurt in the Markets were they carry them, than Good in the buying them here.

Hamborough and the Eaſt-Countries take off the ſame Commodities, and, no Doubt, return Gold and Silver to Balance.

Ireland for what ſhe has, or can get out of other Countries, is a conſtant Stream running into this great Lake.

As for *Newfoundland* and *Greenland*, they have been long neglected, but might prove of the greateſt Conſequence to us.

The *African* Trade might be improved to a great Height, and is a moſt beneficial Traffick, for as much as it takes off chiefly our Manufacture; and, except their Gold Duſt, the Commodities brought from thence are but of little Value in that Country.

But before I quit this Subject of Trade, I ſhall ſpeak a little more largely of that of *France*; and I rather chooſe to do it, becauſe there is no Traffick looked upon with a more malignant Eye than this by many People. Some have affirmed that the Goods imported out of *France* have amounted yearly to two Millions ſix hundred thouſand Pounds. Sir *William Petty* on the contrary ſays, that they cannot come to five hundred thouſand Pounds *per Annum*. I ſhall not enter farther into this Diſpute, than to declare my Opinion for the latter. But perhaps I may be thought very ſingular, when I affirm, that I believe, had the Treaty of Commerce, which was ratified at *Utrecht* the 31ſt of *March*, 1713, been the Rule of our Trade with *France*, our Affairs, in reſpect to that Nation, had been in a better

Condition now than they are, or are likely to be; for by the 20th Article of that Treaty, we had Liberty to import in *France*, every Thing but Warlike Inſtruments, ſubject only to the Duties they were wont to pay by the Tariff of 1664, except the following Goods, *viz.* the Product of Whales, Woollen Manufactures, Salt-fiſh and Sugars, which were provided for in a ſeperate Inſtrument, *viz.*

The Product of Whales were to pay the Duties appointed by the Tariff of 1669.

The Woollen Manufactures the ſame.

Salt-fiſh, the Duties appointed before 1664, and beſides 40 Livres *per* Laſt.

All refined Sugars by the Tariff of 1699, as you may ſee more particularly in the Treaty itſelf, which I have ſubjoin'd in the *Appendix.*

Had we gone on this Plan, we might have better ſupported that luxurious Traffick, and our Woollen Manufacture muſt have found Vent in that Country. But high Duties and Prohibitions on our Side, beget high Duties and Prohibitions on theirs; but there is this Difference between us, that large Impoſts deter them from the Uſe of thoſe Commodities; but on the contrary, our Affectation makes us run the more greedily after them; notwithſtanding the great Improvements we have made in a few Years in the Manufacture of Silks, yet we ſee nothing elſe in a Drawing-Room but prohibited *French* Silks. Vaſt Quantities of *French* Wine and Brandies come into our Cuſtom Houſes, for all the great Duties, and perhaps, as much more is run in upon us; ſo that I don't find that our high Impoſts and Prohibitions ſave us any Thing at Home, the Damage they have done us Abroad is but too well known.

The

The Policy of *Holland* might inſtruct us not to prohibit Commerce of any Kind, or load any Branch of it with Duties which makes it impracticable. A trading Nation ſhould be an open Ware-houſe, where the Merchant may either buy what he pleaſes, or ſell what he can. Whatever is brought to you, if you want it not, you will not purchaſe it; if you do want it the Largeneſs of the Impoſt does not keep it from you. However, this is certain, that a prudent People will always keep thoſe Gates open, that let out their Manufactures or native Commodities. But to do any Act which may draw upon you the Loſs of the beſt Branch of your Manufacture, is wretched Policy. If this had not been our Caſe, I wiſh it never may: but this one Thing I am ſure of, that there hardly ever was a more critical Juncture in *England*, to look into the ſeveral Branches of our Trade, than the preſent.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The State of the Nation in the Year 1688.

IN Order to have a more perfect Idea of our preſent Condition, it will be neceſſary to look back on the Situation of our Affairs about the Year 88; and if the Accounts of thoſe Times meet with any Credit, they may be a Foundation of greater Certainty for me to work upon.

The Year above-mentioned was, perhaps, the Time when *England* was in Poſſeſſion of the greateſt Quantity of Wealth ſhe ever did enjoy. She was then enriched with the Treaſures ſhe had been accumulating for about one hundred and fifty Years; for ſo long we may date the Progreſs of Trade in this Nation; nor had ſhe been at any great Expence, but what was made within herſelf for a long Series of Time.

The Repriſals made on the *Spaniards*, under *Drake*, *Raleigh*, and *Eſſex*, might over and above bear the Charge Queen *Elizabeth* was at upon the Account of the *Spaniſh* Invaſion; and though the *Ruſſia* and *Eaſt-India* Trade were then in their Infancy, yet theſe were the Foundation of a vaſt future Profit, as the *Hanſe* Towns, under an entire Submiſſion to *England*, were an immediate and a great Advantage to her preſent Commerce.

During the pacifick Reign of King *James* the firſt, this Nation had little elſe to do but to receive the Benefits of her Traffick; her extraordinary Expences were very ſmall. That Prince indeed

indeed attempted to reſtore the *Palatinate* to his Son-in-Law, but as his Aids were feeble, ſo his Attempts proved ineffectual.

The latter Part of the ſucceeding Reign was attended with many Calamities, but ſtill the Expence was chiefly within ourſelves; our Trade went on, and the extraordinary Charge of equipping ſo many and ſo great Fleets was made up by the Security of our Commerce, and ſubduing our Rivals in naval Power, the *Dutch*. The Conqueſt of *Jamaica* has well anſwered the Expence of that Expedition, and *Spain* paid dear for the War ſhe declared afterwards againſt *England*, in her Reſentment of that Indignity.

From the Year 1659 to the Year 1688 we increas'd in Wealth of all Kinds. *Holland* after two naval Wars, yielded us up the Dominion of the Ocean, and our Trade extended itſelf every where.

It has been obſerved by an ingenious Writer *, "That the Rental of *England* was in the Year "88 about fourteen Millions *per Annum*; that "the Cuſtoms yielded neat to the Crown, from "*Michaelmas* 1671 to *Michaelmas* 1688,—— "9,447,799 Pounds, which at a medium for ſe- "venteen Years, is 555,752 Pounds;" and if we ſuppoſe the Duties at an Average ten *per Cent. ad Valorem*, ſhews our Imports at that Time to be for above five Millions *per Annum*

As to the Specie of the Nation, the recoining three Years afterwards makes that Sum almoſt apparent, as to the Silver; for from 1691 to the 14th of *Auguſt* 1697, there was brought to the *London* and Country Mints eight Millions, four Hundred

* *Dav.* Eſſays.

dred thouſand Pounds of clipt, light and hammered Money, and in all Probability there might be a great Sum ſtanding out. The mill'd Silver coined in King *Charles* the Second's and King *James* the Second's Reign might be two Millions two hundred thouſand Pounds, ſo that we may ſuppoſe, ſubſiſting in ſilver Money at that Time, about 11 Millions.

The Gold we may reckon thus,

Coin'd in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time, who reformed moſt of the old Specie,	1,500,000
In King *James* the Firſt's Time,	800,000
In King *Charles* the Firſt's,	1,723,456
And in the Reigns of King *Charles* the Second and King *James* the Second,	6,500,000
In all—	10,523,456
But allowing for Deficiencies and Waſtes of all Kinds,	3,000,000
There will remain———	7,523,457

And there is Reaſon to believe this was the State of the Nation in Reſpect to Trade and Money in the Year 88; and ſo large a Quantity of Specie gained in a Country of Traffick neceſſarily ſuppoſes Wealth of all other Kinds.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

The preſent State of the Nation, allowing for the Loſſes ſuſtained in the two laſt Wars with France.

BEFORE I ſhall enter upon the Deſcription of the preſent State of our Affairs, I ſhall endeavour to find out what Loſſes we may have ſuſtained ſince the Year 1688, in the two conſuming Wars with *France*, and what Advantages we may poſſibly have obtained ſince; the Balance of which Account muſt be allowed to be our preſent Situation. And though I have not all thoſe Advantages which are neceſſary to come at Exactneſs in ſo painful an Enquiry, but am forced to take what I can find, as I can collect them from the publick Accounts, yet it does not entirely diſcourage me, hoping I ſhall, even with theſe Materials, give ſuch a general Notion of the Affair I propoſe, that ſhall not be abſurd; and I muſt claim that common Indulgence which is not denied to Men who take Pains to little Purpoſe, to excuſe their ſmall Errors. The Account of our Loſſes I muſt begin from the Year 88, and that will firſt appear from the Cuſtoms which fell in the Articles of Tonnage and Poundage, from 510,769*l.* 13 *s.* which was the Net Produce at that Time, to 416,517 *l.* in the Year 89: So that in one Year there was near 100,000 *l.* ſunk in the Cuſtoms; but to the Year 1695 it was ſtill worſe, and in a medium for ſeven Years, the Tonnage and Poundage fell about 138,707 *l. per Annum.*

This

This visible declining in our Trade was not only occasioned by the falling off of the Adventurers, but that both our Exports and Imports became in a great Measure a Prey to our Enemies; for though upon an exact Computation of the Number of Guns taken and destroyed in the *French* Ships of War, from the Year 88 to 97, their Proportion was above double the Number more than ours, *viz.* 2244 to 1112, yet our foreign Trade being above treble the Value of that of *France*, our Reprisals must have been at least two Thirds less upon their Merchants Ships, considering too that their Privateers must be much more in Number than ours, as the Temptation was so much greater; so that upon the whole, the clear Loss of the Nation, upon the Caption of our Merchandize alone, might be 1,800,000 *l.*

Which is to be understood thus: That the Loss of our Goods over and above what we took from the Enemy, might rise to the abovementioned Sum.

But though this may be a Loss to particular People, yet I shall not reckon it a national Loss, only in Proportion to those foreign Goods which we re-exported again, and for which we paid Money Abroad. And in this Case it is a hard Matter to settle any Foundation, to make even a probable Conjecture of the Quantum of our Specie or Bullion which might be lost on this Account. Therefore I shall leave it to the Opinion of other People.

The

The Expence of our Troops in *Flanders*, consisting of about 70,000 Men annually, in ten Years, including Officers Pay, allowing 12 Pence a Day *per* Man,	12,775,000
The extraordinary Expence of Materials and naval Stores, from *Denmark*, *Sweden*, and the East-Countries,	2,500,000
The Subsidies paid to foreign Princes in Alliance with us,	2,000,000

I purposely omit the Charge of our Troops in *Ireland*, and the Expence of Victualling and Transporting them, because that is no national Loss, the Expence being within ourselves.

But there are some other Circumstances that swell this Account, *viz.* the Charge of remitting this Money, which at 3 *per Cent.* against us, which it was in *Holland* in the Year 1695, come to near	600,000
And the foreign Share of the Interest and Premiums on our Funds, from the Year 1690 to 1702, *viz.* twelve Years, which at an Average in Proportion to the Debts of 14,000,000 *l.* (which was the Sum we owed at the Conclusion of the first War with *France*) might be about a sixth Part,	1,000,000

Had

Had the whole Debt been contracted all at once in the Year 1690, the Foreigners Proportion had been a great deal more, but as it came by Degrees, though the Intereſt was more than 5 *per Cent.* yet I cannot think that more fell to their Share than the above-mentioned Sum. And notwithſtanding when the Exchange is againſt us in any Country, it does not only operate in relation to Remittances of Money, but to the whole Traffick, *viz.* If the Exchange between us and *Holland* be 5 *per Cent.* againſt us, the Commodities of *Holland* will riſe in Proportion to the Difference of the Money, and for every 100 Pounds worth of Goods, we muſt ſend over 105 Pounds, in Money or Goods of that Value, and this in Reſpect to us. *Holland*, *Spain* and *Italy* muſt run the Account very high, yet under this Diſadvantage (and even that which was worſe, the taking of our Ships) by the Money poured in upon us by Foreigners to be placed in our Funds, and the extraordinary Demand for our Commodities, our Specie was not diminiſhed in any Proportion to our Expence.

So that if upon the whole the Nation's Loſs might be in the firſt War with *France*, about	18,875,000
To balance this, the extraordinary Demand for our Cloth, Leather, Beef, Pork, Corn, Lead, Tallow, Salt-Fiſh, and Horſes, *&c.* might probably in theſe ten Years of War ariſe to	5,000,000

The

The Money placed in our Hands by Foreigners,	2,000,000
A Million *per Annum* of *India* Goods, Tobacco, and other foreign Commodities exported from the Year 1690, to the Year 1702, being twelve Years	12,000,000
Then the Balance will be in our Favour for thoſe 12 Years	125,000

And this will be thought credible, when People ſhall know, that in the laſt War with *France* and *Spain*, when our Expence run much higher, as our Arms were more extended from the Year 1702 to the Year 1712, the Balance was in our Favour above a Million and half *per Annum*; and for a Proof of this, I will appeal to the Cuſtom-Houſe Books, and the common Valuation of Goods exported and imported, which I ſhall ſhew in its proper Place.

The Peace concluded in the Year 1697, gave us a little breathing Time, and by the Increaſe of our Trade, we may be ſuppoſed to have augmented our publick Stock, for the Riſe in the Cuſtoms is almoſt a Demonſtration of it.

In the Year 1995, the Tonnage and Poundage was but	362,707
But in the Year 1701, they came to,	1,608,645

And

And in the ſubſequent Years even during the War with *France* and *Spain*, the Duties one Year with another amounted to	1,250,000

From hence we may conclude, that our Specie was little or not at all diminiſhed till the breaking out of the ſecond War with *France* in 1702.

And here I would willingly draw a Veil over thoſe Times, but that the Glory and Succeſs of our Conduct has laid the Baſis of everlaſting Freedom, and cleared our Minds from any Apprehenſions we might have had of being Vaſſals to *France*, or, what is the ſame Thing, the Subjects of arbitrary Power.

Never was a War carried on with greater Vigour, which of Neceſſity made it more expenſive; but the greater the Expence has been, the more to be admired are the Means of recovering ourſelves; it ſhews the Riches of our native Product, great Induſtry, and an admirable Application to Commerce; it ſhews ſuch Vigour of Conſtitution that nothing can hurt us but our ownſelves.

The Net Money applied to the Subſiſtence only of our own Troops in *Flanders*, at an Allowance of Twelve-pence a Day a Man, one with another, Horſe and Foot, and Officers Pay included, comes out thus:

In the Year 1701, in *Flanders*, ten thouſand Men,	182,500
In 1702, made to 40,000 Men,	730,000

Brought

Brought over	912,500
In 1703, added 10,000 Men more	912,500
In 1704 and 1705, *Ditto*	912,500 912,500
In 1706, more added about 2000	949,000
In 1707, more added about 3390	1,010,750
In 1708, more added about 3000	1,065,500
In 1709, more added about 9500	1,238,875
In 1710, more added about 2000	1,275,375
In 1711, *Ditto*	1,275,375
Total	10,464,875
Contingencies	1,107,096
To the King of *Denmark* for Subsidies in Bank Money from 1701 to 1711,	*Crowns.* 1,575,000
1701 to 1710 to the Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, in the whole Subsidy	350,000

Brought over	1,925,000
1703, To augment his Troops, and march them into *Italy*,	347,124
1705, Bread, Waggons, Hospitals, *&c.* for his Troops in *Italy*,	154,041
To the Elector of *Triers* from the Year 1703,	225,000
1703, To the Duke of *Savoy*	5,280,000
1703, To the King of *Portugal*,	5,444,444
1705, To the King of *Prussia*,	1,394,820
1706, For Bread and Forage for 12000 Men in *Flanders*,	860,231
1704, To the Elector *Palatine*,	160,000
To the King of *Prussia* two thirds of 70,000 Crowns.	46,666⅔
	15,837,026⅔
Of our Money perhaps	4,000,000
Besides to the King of *Spain* for four Years 150,000 *per Annum.*	600,000
Besides the ordinary Subsidy of 640,000 *Crowns per Annum*, to the Duke of *Savoy*, he had given to him in 1706,	*l.* 50,000

And

And in the Years 1709, 1710, 1711, every Year 100,000 *l.*	300,000
So that the Money remitted to Foreigners clear on this Account of the War alone in *Flanders*, over and above all Expences of Tranſportation and Victualling, amounts to about	16,787,026 $\frac{1}{2}$

I ſhall be excuſed for placing to the Account of the War in *Flanders*, the Subſidies of the King of *Portugal*, and *Spain*, and Duke of *Savoy*, but as they are omitted elſewhere, it will be the very ſame Thing in the general Account.

The Eſtimate of the Number of Men we had in *Spain* is thus:

In the Year 1705 *Engliſh* 5000,	91,250
In 1706 augmented with above 4000,	167,350
Engliſh and *French* Refugees added above 3000	316,050
In 1708 *Germans* and *Italians* 4360, more *Germans* about 5500, *Portugueſe* and *Palatines* about 7000, in all about 16,700,	614,050
In 1709 *Engliſh*, *Germans*, and *Italians* added 11000,	314,800
In 1710 *Germans*, *Italians* and *Portugueſe* added 4000,	887,800

In 1711, *Engliſh* and *Imperial* Dragoons added 9000,	1,052,050
In 1712	1,052,050
Total	4,995,400
Into *Portugal* there was ſent in 1703, 8000 *Engliſh*	146,000
In 1704 more *Engliſh* ſent 1810, which were augmented from Time to Time till 1711, when they were 9504: So that at an Average *England* might pay in *Portugal* for about nine Years 8500 Men *per Annum*. So that the Expence will be, at Twelve-pence a Man a Day, the Pay of Officers, and all Charges included,	1,396,125
So that the total Expence of the War, as it relates only to the bare Subſiſtence of the Troops with the Subſides, comes to	24,168,871

This may be thought too low a Computation, but conſidering that the Clothing was made in *England*, as alſo, that a great Number of Officers paſſed the Winter here, and Numbers alſo of Serjeants and Corporals were here a Recruiting, beſides the Non-effectives; and likewiſe, that an Arrear of ſome Millions was provided for by Annuities after the Expiration of the War, with theſe Deductions, the Total perhaps may be pretty juſt as to what regards the Payments Abroad.

I omit

I omit the Charge of Ships for *Spain* and *Portugal*, which came to 6,540,966, as likewiſe the Charge of Tranſports on this Account, which came to 1,336,719, beſides the victualling the Land Forces 583,770.

I omit in this Account too the Charge of the Fleet, which was thus:

Ships of the Line.	In	
	1702	74
	1703	79
	1704	74
	1705	79
	1706	78
	1707	72
	1708	69
	1709	67
	1710	62
	1711	59
	Total	713

Which at an Average of 30,000 a Ship, will come to above 21,000,000

But as this Expence is chiefly within ourſelves, and part of it remains a Debt upon us now, I ſhall only conſider it in that Proportion that Foreigners have to our publick Funds; my Deſign being chiefly as near as I can to find out what Quantity of Money or Bullion we may probably have gain'd or loſt ſince the Year 88.

I muſt, however, add to our Loſs the extraordinary Expence of Naval Stores for ten Years, which in ſuch great Fleets, muſt amount to at leaſt	3,000,000
And then the Specie accountable for in reſpect to the Conſumption for this War will be	27,168,871
I muſt add to this Account the Charge of remitting Abroad the Sum above mentioned of	24,168,871
Which at 3 *per Cent.* comes to about	720,000
I muſt alſo added the Intereſt Money that has been drawn out from our Funds by Foreigners from the Year 1702 to the preſent Time, being twenty-two Years; and as that has been an increaſing Debt of about forty Millions ſince 1701, of which it is ſuppoſed they generally had a ſixth Part; it may be reckoned at a Medium at 150,000 *per Ann.* which with the ſame Proportion of the Debt of fourteen Millions contracted in the preceding War, might be in the whole 250,000 *per Annum* for twenty-two Years, which comes to	5,500,000
Which added to the reſt amounts to	33,388,871

To

To balance this, we have received of Foreigners about	4,000,000

The Succeſs of this War was near equal to the laſt with *France* at Sea; for beſides thoſe Ships that were deſtroy'd at *Thoulon*, the *French* loſt in their Ships of War 1498 Guns more than we, *viz.*

Our Loſs was	1596
The *French*	3094

And the Repriſals made upon *Spain* this War might go a great way to make good the Loſſes our Merchants may have ſuſtained from the *French*.

The extraordinary Export of our own Commodities, *viz.* Wool, Cloth, Corn, Lead, Horſes, *&c.* for about ten Years	5,000,000
So that to recover the Money we loſt in the laſt War with *France*, we muſt have gained in theſe laſt twelve Years upon our own Commodities exported, a Balance of two hundred thouſand Pounds *per Annum*.	2,400,000
And a Million *per Annum* upon the Re-exportation of foreign Commodities for twenty two Years paſt, one Year with another	22,000,000

I only mention this Manner of our Acquiſition, to ſhew that even theſe Sums were ſufficient to defray our Expences, but there can be no doubt but our Gains were abundantly more.

For if we look into the Accounts of our Exports, and the Produce of the Net-Money which has been paid into the *Exchequer* from the Cuſtoms and Seizures, it will appear evident, that we have been no Loſers.

It may perhaps give Satisfaction to ſome People, to ſee what our Exports were from 1702 to 1712, and what the Produce of the Cuſtoms were from 1701 to 1723, inclusive.

The Accounts taken of our Exports by thoſe whoſe Buſineſs it is to make that Enquiry, are as follow:

In	
1702 ——	1,507,948
1703 ——	2,698,232
1704 ——	2,570,109
1705 ——	2,377,335
1706 ——	3,650,570
1707 ——	3,266,651
1708 ——	3,104,988
1709 ——	2,725,266
1710 ——	3,100,868
1711 ——	3,109,755
1712 ——	3,583,206

Payments

The Payments into his Majesty's Exchequer on the several Branches of the Customs, and on Seizures for the following Years.

Years	Customs. *l.*	*s.*	*d.*	Seizures. *l.*	*s.*	*d.*
1701	1,608,645	5	2¾	12,911	0	2½
2	1,278,406	1	3	29,887	0	11½
3	1,195,465	12	5¼	16,651	6	6½
4	1,392,997	9	2½	11,406	15	5½
5	1,133,246	3	6	15,304	5	8½
6	1,311,856	1	11½	24,561	14	6½
7	1,192,081	3	11	16,427	16	5
8	1,343,536	15	5¼	9,402	15	7
9	1,257,332	19		13,671	4	6½
10	1,208,291	19	6¾	14,134	16	10
11	1,253,595	14	10¾	12,318	17	7
12	1,315,423		7½	11,443	14	7½
13	1,541,170	4	5½	15,729	5	6
14	1,714,139	9	11½	18,231	5	11
15	1,509,178	16	1¼	18,383	6	11
16	1,698,545	17	5¼	21,034	5	10½
17	1,768,932	18	1¼	25,386	10	7½
18	1,760,313	6	5¾	28,476	8	5
19	1,591,050	17	8¼	32,838	14	7
20	1,519,255	16	2¾	34,087	19	8
21	1,516,658	17	4	41,553	5	1½
22	1,558,027	10	9½	35,346	6	2
23	1,581,371	18	6	36,437	18	6½
	33,258,523	19	10¾	496,126	13	4

Theſe Articles of our Exports are ſo ſtrong a Proof of our Gains, that there is no Room left for the greateſt Sceptick to doubt, but that even in the Time of War, our Specie was not much diminiſhed; the Money lent every Year; the Rents that were paid, the Commerce which was carried on, are all the ſtrongeſt Proofs of this Hypotheſis.

And upon theſe Principles, I may venture to affirm, that we cannot have leſs than fifteen Millions of Specie in this Country, which I ſhall endeavour to prove hereafter.

As to the reſt of the Nation's Stock, *viz.* Lands, Houſes, Furniture, Plate, Shipping, *&c.* it is no doubt increaſed in Value one fifth more than in the Year 88.

But perhaps it may be demanded if there is but fifteen Millions in Specie now, how is the Nation richer that it was in the Year 1688, when there was in Specie 18,523,456? To which I anſwer, than in the firſt Place our Commerce being much greater than it was at that Time, the frequent Exportation of Silver into ſome Countries, either to pay our Balances, or buy Goods which bring us in a greater Quantity from others, makes the Merchant rather chooſe to keep Bullion by him than carry it to the Mint, from the Difficulties and Expence that attend the Exportation, or melting coin'd Silver.

Secondly, the great Increaſe of Jewels, Pictures, and antique Statues, which may very well be called Riches, becauſe they will always produce Money.

And

And as these Effects have cost great Sums, they must be considered as the Nation's Profit, from their constant and received Value amongst Mankind.

And Thirdly, the great and almost universal Increase of Plate in private Houses, as well as publick since that Time; and this will appear in a clearer Light from the Plate-Duty, which has, at Six-pence an Ounce, from the first of *June* 1720, to *June* 24, 1724, produc'd 63,465*l.* 16 s. and 2 d. which is above fifteen thousand Pounds *per Ann.* but if we should suppose the same Quantity has been fabricated since 1690 every Year, it would at 5*s.* and 6*d.* an Ounce, come to 5,830,000: And if we should deduct a third Part for Deficiencies and being worked over again, it comes to near four Millions.

I shall not mention here the Operation of our Paper Effects on all Commodities, because I intend to treat of that Matter in another Place.

But I hope these Reasons will sufficiently shew that the Nation is not only nominally more valuable than it was before the first War with *France*, but substantially richer.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Circulation of Money.

THERE is hardly any one will Doubt, but the first Traffick in the World was carried on by Bartering of Commodities one with another, and, in the Infancy of the World, where Peoples Wants were few, and their Ideas narrow, and confined to the Objects around them;

them, this Sort of Commerce was ſufficient for the Neceſſities and Comforts of Human Life; but when the Inſolence of Power diveſted Men of their Properties, when the Eſtates of Millions came into a few Hands, then Induſtry and Invention by Degrees found out all the Conveniencies and Delicacies of Life; the lazy Uſurper parted with his Eſtate to gratify his Appetites, and in a Series of Time the Succeſſors of thoſe very People who have been ſpoiled of their Properties were reſtor'd to them again. But this Circulation could never have been effected in this Manner, but for the Invention of Money, whereby the induſtrious Man is enabled to lay by ſo much of his Gains, as in Time ariſes to the Purchaſe of a great Eſtate.

When Commerce came to be more extended, the Difficulties that aroſe from Bartering, made People agree to fix a certain Value upon Gold and Silver, and theſe Metals (being ſcarce, lying in a little Compaſs, and not being much ſubject to Ruſt and Diminution by Uſe) became the Standard of the Value of other Commodities.

For Inſtance, if ſo much Cloth is worth ſo much Gold or Silver in *Smyrna* or *Liſbon*, and ſo much Silk, or ſo much Wine, is worth the ſame Quantity of Gold or Silver, then the Merchant in *Smyrna* or *Liſbon* will exchange ſo much Silk or Wine for ſo much Cloth, becauſe there is a greater Demand for Cloth in *Smyrna* or *Liſbon*, than for Silk or Wine; but if the ſame Quantity of Silk or Wine was worth more Gold and Silver than the ſame Cloth, the Demand for the Cloth would be no Temptatation to him to purchaſe it at that Rate.

All Commodities have their Value from the Demand for them. A Scarcity of any one Commodity

modity and a Demand for it will raiſe the Value, even where there is a Scarciry of Gold and Silver. But though Gold and Silver be the Meaſure of Goods, yet they have often varied according to their Quantity.

Thus tho', in Proportion to the People, the Demand for Wheat might be the ſame as in Queen *Mary*'s Time that it is now, yet then Wheat was at 7 s. and 6 d. *per* Quarter, which is now above 4 times as much. This Difference can only ariſe from the Quantity of Gold and Silver which has leſſen'd the Demand for them.

There can be no Doubt but in 1750, or thereabouts, when we may ſuppoſe the whole Debt paid off, and all the Paper Effects annihilated, and conſequently the publick Taxes abated, all Goods will fall in their Price; and there are two Reaſons for this Way of thinking.

The firſt is, that when theſe Paper Effects (which now have the Operation of Money) are ſunk, their Operation muſt ceaſe of Courſe; for as the Value of Commodities has riſen by the Increaſe of Gold and Silver within theſe 150 Years, ſo wou'd they of Neceſſity fall in their Price, if our Gold and Silver were conſiderably diminiſhed; the Conſequence muſt be the ſame if there is a Diminution of that which has the Operation of Money.

The ſecond Reaſon is very obvious; for as Goods that are tax'd bear a Price in Proportion to the Impoſt upon them, when they are free from this Incumbrance, there can be no Reaſon, why they ſhould not come to their natural Value; (if I may Uſe the Expreſſion) for Inſtance, if the Duty on Malt be 6 d. a Buſhel, when this Duty is taken off, Malt of Courſe ſhould be 6 d. a Buſhel cheaper than it was before:

fore: The ſame Thing muſt be ſaid of all other Commodities that are taxed.

And this Difference does not only relate between Gold and Silver, and other Commodities, but alſo to one another. The Quantity of Silver by the opening of the Mines of *Mexico* and *Peru*, being greater than Gold, gave an extraordinary Value to Gold; and hence it was, that in the eleventh of King *James* I. the Unity-piece of Gold was rais'd from 20 to 23 s. On the contrary, a few Years ago the Demand for Silver was ſo great, that we were obliged to lower the Value of Gold; and, in all Probability, in a little Time we ſhall think a farther Diminution abſolutely neceſſary. But it is not alone the Quantity of Gold and Silver that leſſens the Demand for them, but the Circulation too; a great Trade, making a greater Demand for Induſtry and Commodities than Money, leſſens its Value, and conſequently raiſes the Price of the other two.

Trade and Credit, as they are inſeperable in themſelves, ſo they are the Parents of Circulation: Money without theſe would be but a dead Treaſure in few Peoples Hands, and conſequently the Community little the better for it. *France* is to *England* as eight to three, their Specie perhaps proportionable, yet there is a greater Shew of Money in *England* than in *France*; but if the Circulation of *France* were equal to that of *England*, then ſhe would appear of Courſe ſo much richer than *England*.

'Tis

'Tis a ſtupendious Thought to conſider the Money-Tranſaction of this Kingdom; perhaps it may not be unacceptable to give ſome Account of it. I believe I ſhall be allow'd to compute the Rents of this Kingdom at — 20,000,000

And upon the Suppoſition that that the Lands of *England* are not tax'd at half the Value, this Account may be near the Truth.

The Duties on the Cuſtoms produce *per Annum* about — 1,600,000

Which upon an Average of 30 *l. per Cent. ad Valorem* ſhews our Imports to be for about — 5,300,000

Beſides our Re-Exports, which may be about — 1,500,000

The reſt of the Duties and Funds — 2,199,328

If it is allowed me that there are eight Millions of People in this Nation, I believe I ſhall not exceed if I reckon the Manufactures conſum'd at Home to amount to *per Annum* — 16,000,000

I ſhall

I ſhall not mention the Intereſt ariſing from mortgag'd Land, that being computed before in the Rental; but I muſt take Notice of the Mortgages themſelves, becauſe they are often transferr'd, and may be reckon'd Money in Circulation; and theſe have been computed at a fifteenth part of the Land, which will come to about	26,000,000 principal Money

The next Thing I ſhall mention, is the great National Debt;

And this is about	53,000,000
The Malt produces more about	600,000
So that the whole Money-Tranſaction of this Nation, ſeems to be for about	126,199,328
And all this is carried on with no more than	15,000,000 Specie.

In Order to make a proper Judgment of this Affair, it will be very material to know what Quantity of Money may be neceſſary to carry on the Buſineſs of the Nation.

Sir *William Petty* was of an Opinion in this Caſe, that ſo much Coin was neceſſary, as would pay a half Year's Rent of all the Lands, a Quarter's Rent of all the Houſes, a Week's Expence of all the People, and a quarter Value of all exported Commodities; to which Mr. *Davenant* adds

adds an eighth Part of the Value of our Manufactures (omitted by Sir *William Petty)* which when he wrote about the Year 1698, he computes thus.

Half a Year's Rent of all the Lands	5,000,000
A Quarter's Rent of the Houſes, *&c.*	1,000,000
A Week's Expence of all the People	769,230
A Quarter Value of exported Commodities	1,500,000
An eighth Part Value of Manufactures	1,000,000
Total	9,269,230
But ſince their Time, the Rents, the Trade, and the Expence of the People have conſiderably increaſed, as I have already ſhewn; and by comparing theſe Articles (which I believe have not been exaggerated) with thoſe of Mr. *Davenant*'s, it will be eaſily allowed me, that there cannot be leſs Specie to carry on the Buſineſs of the Nation than	15,000,000

I muſt own this Account lies open to one Objection, which is, that theſe ſeveral Sums, tho' conſidered ſeperate, muſt in their Rotation be often blended, and conſequently ſome part of them be reckoned twice over.

But this Objection will have leſs Force when we conſider, that only to pay one half Year's

Rent of the Land and publick Debt it will require at leaſt 11,250,000.

So that upon this Suppoſition, there will be left only 3,750,000 to carry on all the reſt of the Nation's Buſineſs, without any Allowance for private Hoards.

And perhaps I may be particular in ſaying, the Reaſon of this prodigious Circulation is the Debt itſelf; for the large and regular Intereſt that has been paid on theſe State-Actions have almoſt exhauſted all private Hoards, and made theſe Securities become like a new Species of Money, current in every Body's Hands.

People are by this means enabled to make a greater Expence, and as the Faſhion of Life extends itſelf, and affects mediately or immediately almoſt every Branch of Trade, 'tis not wonderful to ſee that Increaſe of it. A great Conſumption of Commodities generally attends Affluence, and a looſe Oeconomy is often the Effect of great Plenty.

This large and regular Intereſt has not only made a Circulation amongſt one another, but has drawn great Sums from Foreigners, which has help'd to balance the Loſſes of our Specie, we ſuſtain'd in the two laſt Wars with *France.*

It muſt be admitted we owe this Money, and the Intereſt is an annual Loſs, as well as the Principal will be a real one when paid off.

But ſuppoſing we ſhould ſtate this Account at Six Millions, which is about the ninth part of our Debt, the Intereſt of this Sum, 300,000*l. per Ann.* yet I will not allow this is all loſt to us: On the contrary, the Diſadvantage may not be half ſo much as it appears to be; for if A, the Government, borrows of B, C, D, 100*l.* a piece at 5 *per Cent.* Intereſt, if A, in Trade; employs

100*l.*

100*l.* and gains 16 *per Cent.* this Loan is an Advantage to him; and tho' this Employment cannot be ſuppos'd to be made of all the Money lent to us, yet if a ſixth Part could be thus us'd, it would reduce our Loſs from 300,000 *l.* to 140,000 *l. per Annum.* Which conſidering our vaſt Traffick is inconſiderable.

Again, this large and regular Intereſt has made a Paper-coin current among us, which ſerves the Office of twenty Times the Specie; that is, an Annuity of 5*l. per Ann.* is generally taken for a 100*l.* for tho' no Body is oblig'd to take Annuities in Payments for Money, yet they are ſeldom refus'd; and if they are, and Money requir'd, this Money comes at laſt to Market to purchaſe ſuch Securities, and it is by this means the money'd Man always find a ready Intereſt, and conſequently is enabled to live at greater Expence, which muſt neceſſarily operate an Advantage to all that part of the Society that have to deal with him, a Demand riſing from the Conſumption of Goods certainly raiſing the Price of them.

And this is likewiſe a great Advantage to the trading part of the Nation, who have an Opportunity of immediate Intereſt for their Money, till they can employ it in Traffick.

This quick Circulation of ſo many Millions gives the Profits of our Trade and Induſtry to the whole Society; for the Duties on the Goods of B, C, D, Merchants, go towards paying the Intereſt of Money due to F, G, H, who have Occaſion for the Product of J, K, L, Landed Men, which puts a greater Value on their Eſtates, and conſequently the Tenants of J, K, L, are Gainers too in their Proportion, which enables them to give their Labourers a part of their Profit.

And thus it is, the Price of Labour is rais'd, the Demand for Goods being great, the Dealers ſtrive to excel in Quality or Quantity, and conſequently out-bid one another in the Price of Labour.

And by this means we may account for the Difference of theſe Times, and what they might be a Hundred Years ago, becauſe an Addition only of four Pence a Day Expence to every Individual, reckoning eight Millions of Souls in *England* and *Wales*, amounts to above forty eight Millions *per Ann.* ſpent now more than at that Time. But without doubt the Increaſe of People in this Series of Years has been very much; for in the ordinary Way of reckoning it is judg'd, that in one Hundred Years a Nation increaſes one half in Number. Mr. *Davenant* ſays, in his Eſſays, Part the 2*d.* and Page 41. "That ſuch as are vers'd in political Arithmetick have ſufficient Grounds to believe, that the People of *England* were about 300,000 more in 1688, than they were in 1665, notwithſtanding the laſt great Plague.

Sir *William Petty* ſays, that a Nation will double their Number in two hundred Years, which muſt be always underſtood thus, that it muſt be exempt from the Ravage of War, the Deſtruction of Peſtilence, or being drain'd for diſtant Colonies.

And indeed, whoſoever has the leaſt Shadow of Reaſon muſt allow this Truth; for were it not for ſuch an Increaſe, it would be impoſſible to account for thoſe Numbers which are now in the World (notwithſtanding the Deſtruction of Wars, Earthquakes, Inundations, and the Havock of Plagues) from ſo ſmall an Origin as *Noah*'s Family.

And

And it is to this, as well as to the Quantity of Gold and Silver, that the Lands of this Kingdom have increas'd ſo much in Value, Numbers of People making great Demands for the Product of the Earth, and putting Men upon the Neceſſity of cultivating and improving for their Suſtenance.

But 'tis obſervable, that Corn has not riſen in Proportion to the Price of Land, or other Commodities, within theſe fifty Years, a Buſhel of Wheat being near the ſame Value now as it was then: But by a new-faſhion'd Induſtry the ſame Quantity of Ground is more productive, and the Tenant has his Advantage in ſomething elſe.

And had this Nation double the Riches they have, the Demand for Corn might not be greater than it is now, and conſequently not of much more Value; nor indeed can it be of more Value, unleſs in Times of Famine, becauſe the Eaſt Countries would furniſh you with any Quantity at a little more than at the preſent Price.

Numbers of People always make a great Expence, a great Expence of Courſe a great Circulation; but when you add Credit to them there is no End of the Account; thus we ſee in *England* fifteen Millions of Specie ſerve to anſwer a Debt of ſeventy nine Millions, and perform the Office of	*l.* 47,399,328	more.

I am inclined to believe, that notwithſtanding what has been expended in the two laſt Wars,

there is more than 15,000,000 of Money; for the Coinage from the Beginning of Queen *Ann*'s Time has been for above ten Millions of Gold, and above five hundred thouſand Pounds Sterling of Silver, as may be ſeen in the following Account of the Quantity of Gold and Silver that has been coin'd from 1701, to 1724 incluſive.

And conſidering the whole Extent of our Trade, which I have already ſhewn, has even in the Time of the moſt expenſive War brought us in ſo large a Balance, there is little Reaſon to think our Bullion or Specie has not rather increas'd ſince the Year 1688.

As for the Waſte which may be ſuppos'd to have been made in the Fabrication of Gold and Silver into Utenſils and Lace, the Allowance muſt be but ſmall. Lace is generally burnt, and the Silver brought back again and put to the ſame Uſe, and the Proportion of Gold is ſo very little, that half an Ounce of Gold will gild a Wire 370,200 Feet long.

GOLD *and* SILVER *coin'd between* 1701 *and* 1724 *inclusive.*

	GOLD.	SILVER.
	lb	lb
1701	26742	37477
1702	3642	114
1703	34	718
1704		4007
1705	104	429
1706	537	932
1707	607	1174
1708	1010	3751
1709	2468	25423
1710	3716	817
1711	9324	24768
1712	2855	1784
1713	13137	2333
1714	29526	1566
1715	39090	1643
1716	23765	1650
1717	15186	948
1718	3010	2295
1719	14745	1756
1720	18959	7832
1721	5832	2313
1722	12728	1983
1723	8306	48099
1724	5860	1652
Total	lb 241183	lb 175464

which makes

£ 11,576,784. £ 552,711 12 *s.*

And

And tho' in a Nation of great Commerce the Fabrication of Gold and Silver in the Mints may not be an exact Rule to measure those Commodities by, because the Difficulties that attend the Exportation of coin'd Money make People to keep Bullion for their Traffick; yet it may be allowed me, that were there more Silver or Gold Metal than could be us'd in Traffick, they wou'd naturally be brought to the Mints; so without Doubt we may conclude a Nation gains by Trade, when we see a great Stock of Specie in Currency, on the contrary we may conclude there is something wrong in that Oeconomy which makes a Scarcity of Money, especially Silver, which is the Measure of the Commerce almost of the whole World.

The great Scarcity of this Commodity we laboured under a few Years since, was owing to the too great Value we put on Gold in Proportion to Silver, and not so much to the Exportation of that Metal for the *East-India* Trade, as some have imagin'd.

And the great Coinage of Gold about that Time makes it apparent, that Foreigners gain'd by the Exchange of Gold for Silver. The Cessation of that quick Coinage, and the Currency of Silver since, will enforce this Truth.

CHAP. V.

THE paying the publick Debts is a Matter of the greatest Concern, and seems to be the chiefest Care of the Administration; the Measures that have been already taken will in all Probability, in the Year 1727, produce a sinking Fund of above a Million of Money.

An

And ſuppoſe we ſtate the Debt at fifty three Millions, the ſinking Fund at 1,200,000, it is no great Diſcovery to ſay, that in leſs than twenty ſix Years this great Debt may be paid off.

But I muſt beg leave to obſerve, that notwithſtanding this Account is mathematically true, upon the Suppoſition of ſo much Money received annually, yet, upon the whole, either the Creditor or the Community muſt loſe ſo much of their Principal before this Debt can be paid off, or elſe they muſt acquire a new Eſtate.

For Inſtance, A, the Government, owes B, C, D, 2000*l.* E, F, G, H have Lands and Goods to the Value of 20,000*l.* and the whole Community have but 500*l.* amongſt them in Money, of which a 100*l.* a Year are the Revenues of A, if the Debt is at 4 *per Cent.* the Revenues of A, in leſs than twenty Years, will be ſufficient to pay it. But how? It muſt be out of the Eſtates of B, C, D, E, F, G, H, ſo that their Eſtates muſt be diminiſhed by ſo much, or they muſt acquire a new Eſtate anſwerable for this Debt.

It is true the Loſs may not fall upon B, C, or D, the immediate Creditor, becauſe any of them may purchaſe the Lands or Goods of E, F, G, or H. But then at laſt it muſt fall on him or them that have the Money, becauſe that A has no other Eſtate to pay with, but the Money of B, C, D, E, F, *&c.*

If it could be ſuppoſed that B, C, D, State-Creditors, ſhould keep all the Money that was paid them by A, in five Years Time, they muſt have all the Money of the Community; but as this is unlikely, and their neceſſary Expences muſt take a Circulation, ſo of Courſe it muſt come about to A, who has part of almoſt every Thing that is bought or ſold.

Perhaps

Perhaps it may be aſked, how ſo large a Money-Debt could grow out of ſo ſmall a Capital? To which I anſwer, That the annual Charge of our Fleets and Armies, chiefly conſiſting in Commodities of our own Growth, the Creditors were ſatisfied with an Intereſt for their Money, ſo that the annual Payment of the eighteenth, or twentieth Part of the Value of their Goods was Satisfaction till the whole could be paid.

And as to the Money, it was generally lent by the ſame People who ſold their Securities to others at an advanced Price, and by this Means, were enabled every Year to lend more, they being the Reſervoirs of all thoſe little Streams, or Parcels of Money which belonged to the Multitude, who demanded an Intereſt for them, the Punctuality of Payments and Sacredneſs of the Security in ſome Time making the Intereſt more valuable than the Principal.

Hence it is, that People finding themſelves in a State of Safety, and that their Intereſt is well paid, raiſe the Price of their publick Securities, which of Neceſſity leſſens the Value of Money.

If a Million of the publick Debts were paid off, this Money muſt come again to Market to look out for Intereſt, and conſequently the remaining Part of the Debt would increaſe in its Value from the Difficulty of finding Employment for that Million elſewhere; but then it muſt be allowed, that there is a Million leſs in Circulation than there was before, becauſe this Million, call it Annuities, or Stock of any Kind, did the Office of ſo much Money; the ſame Thing muſt be ſaid of every Million that is paid off.

It

It may be a Queſtion, whether after ten Millions paid off (and conſequently ſo much leſs in Circulation) there will be the ſame Conſumption of Commodities as there is at preſent; if not, the ſame Annuity cannot be collected, and conſequently the Debt will take a longer Time in clearing off.

'Tis demonſtrable, unleſs People ſpend out of their Capital, the Conſumption cannot be ſo great, becauſe after ten Millions paid, there muſt be ſo much Principal and Intereſt leſs in Circulation than there was before, unleſs we ſuppoſe, that by the Application of this Money in Trade, we get a Sum equal to the Intereſt and Principal.

For let us ſuppoſe the publick Debt fifty Millions, the Intereſt two Millions and a half; ſuppoſe then ten Millions paid off, by which Means the Government have a Fund of 500,000 *l.* more *per Annum*, in their Hands, to pay off another Part of the original Debt, it cannot be ſaid this Sum comes to the Mortgagees in the ſame Manner it did before; for now it is paid as principal Money, whereas before it being for Intereſt, it was in all Probability expended in the Neceſſaries or Delicacies of Life.

If ſo much then is taken out of the Conſumption, it muſt follow certainly, that thoſe Funds which ariſe out of Conſumption muſt be affected, unleſs we ſuppoſe, that the Mortgagees ſhall ſpend an equal Sum out of their Capital, or get ſuch an Intereſt out of Trade, and ſpend it.

There is another Objection which is hardly worth mentioning, which is, that as ſoon as the State-Creditor is paid off, he may lend his Money out again, or employ it in Trade, and con-

conſequently be enabled to ſpend the ſame Income he received from the Government.

As to the firſt Part of the Objection, it has not been conſidered who is to borrow; if the landed Man, why then of Courſe there muſt be a Diminution of his Expence in Proportion to the Intereſt he pays: As I inſtanced before; A, poſſeſſed of ten Pounds a Year, pays forty Shillings *per Annum* to the Government. B, State Creditor, receives twenty Pounds of his Debt from the Government which he lends to A. A pays B twenty Shillings *per Annum*, then of Conſequence the Expence of A is reduced to ſeven Pounds *per Annum*, ſo that by this Loan there is not a Shilling more in Circulation, than there was before.

As to the ſecond Part of the Objection, that the Money received may be employed in Trade; it muſt be conſidered in the firſt Place, that of the national Securities, I mean of that Part which belongs to our own Countrymen, perhaps not the 30th Part is in ſuch Hands as know any Thing of Trade.

Beſides Trade, boundleſs though it may ſeem to be, is finite, and depends entirely upon your own Conſumption, or that of other Countries.

Whatever you ſpend within yourſelves, cannot be conſidered as a national Advantage in any other Light, but as it diffuſes our Riches, and contributes to make the Multitude live well, and puts them out of a State of Vaſſalage: But this great Expence at Home may really be injurious to us in another Light, as it may occaſion a high Price upon ſuch Commodities as may hinder Foreigners from buying of us, and, perhaps, put them upon ſuch Meaſures, as may make them Maſters of thoſe Manufactures,

or

or other Commodities, they were accuſtomed to have of us.

In a State of Tranquility, it is not to be imagined, but every Nation will look within herſelf, and ſee, what Methods ſhe may take, to ſave the Charge of foreign Expence, and eſtabliſh thoſe neceſſary Arts and Sciences among her own People, the Want of which, has been prejudicial to her Intereſts before.

In 1665, the Crown of *France*, grown immenſely great by innumerable Conqueſts, but greater ſtill by the Effects of the *Pyrenean* Treaty, being in a profound Peace, thought it worth her while to look into the State of the Kingdom in reſpect to Commerce, and ſuch effectual Meaſures were taken, as gained her the Balance of Trade from the reſt of the World.

His Imperial Majeſty has thought it his Intereſt to eſtabliſh an *Eaſt-India* Trading Company at *Oſtend*, and to give the greateſt Encouragement to Traffick at *Trieſte*; and it will be hard for Human Foreſight to ſet Limits to the growing Commerce of his wide Dominion.

Even *Spain*, ſlow and unactive as ſhe is, begins to think Trade a neceſſary Branch of a wiſe Government; and if we may believe publick Accounts, the Duke *de Ripperda* has already gone great Lengths in ſettling a Woollen Manufacture in the Province of *Andalouſia*.

What I infer from theſe Obſervations, is, that it is probable, if *Europe* reſt in a State of Peace, the Commerce of *Britain* will not be ſo advantageous to her as it has been, and conſequently there will not be that Opportunity of employing thoſe great Sums in Trade, as People may imagine.

If, after twenty Millions paid, the Difficulty of employing Money will become ſo great as that Half of it may become uſeleſs, that is, hoarded up, which may very well be the Caſe; it is not then to be imagined, the Conſumption of Goods can be ſo great as now; the Duties then of Neceſſity muſt be leſs.

If the Conſumption diminiſhes, who is it that is moſt like to ſuffer? Why, the trading Man, Mechanick, and landed Man. For Inſtance, if the money'd Man is reduced to live on two Fifths leſs than heretofore, or which is the ſame Thing, the money'd Eſtate is two Fifths worſe than it was before, the Conſumption of the Proprietors muſt abate in Proportion; and conſequently this muſt fall on the trading Man, Mechanick, or landed Man, becauſe under theſe three Heads all the neceſſary Expences of Life almoſt may be rang'd.

The landed Man will be very much ſurprized to find his Rents diminiſh, and yet his Land riſe in Value as to the Purchaſe of it; the Merchant will wonder, that in a profound Time of Tranquility and Plenty, he has not that Vent for his Commodities he was accuſtomed to have.

The poor Mechanick will pine for want of Employment; and this muſt be the Conſequence if we have leſs to ſpend than we had before.

But perhaps, it will be thought adviſeable to leave open all the Gates of Circulation, that this Alteration may come gradually, and not ſurprize us; that the Advantages we may have from Trade may fill up thoſe Gaps which muſt be occaſioned by ſuch a Stagnation as the Payment of ten Millions will make. If an Annuity-Office ſhould be open to all Purchaſers for their Lives,

Lives, People would, doubtleſs, rather than have Money lye idle, buy Annuities either for themſelves or their Children; and this would be always Money in Circulation; and I am certain, that were this under a good Regulation, at the Price Annuities are now, the Government would be Gainers by the Project; and were it to continue, would, in the Proceſs of Time, raiſe a Sum of Money for any Emergency.

One Thing I am ſure of, it would greatly facilitate the Circulation of Money, without which our Debts can never be paid off.

If the Value of a Life of 26 Years old be 13 Years and three Fifths Intereſt at 5 *per Cent.* that is, the Purchaſer and Government make an equal Bargain; if the Purchaſer gives thirteen hundred and ſixty Pounds, for a hundred Pounds a Year during his Life, when the Difficulty of getting Intereſt for Money ſhall be great, it will be a great Temptation to People to receive about 8 *per Cent.* for their Money.

The Government too will find an Advantage in the Circulation; and if theſe Annuities are confined to People reſident in *England*, in all Probability it will bring over many Strangers to dwell amongſt us, whoſe Wealth can be no Diſadvantage to us, and who can no where elſe find ſuch an Employment for their Money.

An ingenious Calculator has upon probable Principles computed the Values of Annuities for every 10th Year of a Man's Life, for an Intereſt at 5 *per Cent.* as follows:

Perſons

Perſons Age	5 *per Cent.* Years Purch.
76	3,78
66	6,46
56	8,88
46	10,62
36	12,20
26	13,60
16	14,84
6	15,21
1	11,70

But as Money may ſtill fall in its Value, yet the ſame Reaſon will continue for employing great Sums this Way.

If national Intereſt ſhould come to 4 *per Cent.* then the Purchaſe Money would be ſtill more, as in the following Table.

Perſons Age.	4 *per Cent.* Years Purch.
1	13,3
6	17,9
16	17,4
26	15,7
36	14,0
46	11,9
56	9,8
66	6,9
76	3,9

APPENDIX.

The Treaty of Commerce between their Britannick and moſt Chriſtian Majeſties, &c.

ARTICLE I.

IT is agreed and concluded between the moſt ſerene and potent Queen of *Great Britain*, and the moſt ſerene and moſt potent, the moſt Chriſtian King, That there ſhall be a reciprocal and entire perfect Liberty of Navigation and Commerce between the Subjects on each Part throughout all and every the Kingdoms, States, Dominions, and Provinces of their Royal Majeſties in *Europe*, concerning all and ſingular Kinds of Goods in thoſe Places, and on thoſe Conditions, and in ſuch Manner and Form as is ſettled and adjuſted in the following Articles.

II.

But that the Commerce and Friendſhip between the Subjects of the abovefaid Parties may be hereafter ſecure, and free from all Trouble and Moleſtation, it is agreed and concluded, that if at any Time any ill Underſtanding, and Breach of Friendſhip, or Rupture, ſhould happen between the Crowns of their Royal Ma-

jeſties, (which God forbid) in ſuch Caſe the Term of ſix Months ſhall be allowed after the ſaid Rupture to the Subjects and and Inhabitants on each Part reſiding in the Dominions of the other, in which they themſelves may retire, together with their Families, Goods, Merchandizes and Effects, and carry them whitherſoever they ſhall pleaſe; as likewiſe at the ſame Time the ſelling and diſpoſing of their Goods, both moveable and immoveable, ſhall be allowed them freely, and without any Diſturbance, and in the mean Time their Goods, Effects, Wares and Merchandizes, and particularly their Perſons, ſhall not be detained or troubled by Arreſt or Seizure. But rather in the mean while the Subjects on each Side ſhall have and enjoy good and ſpeedy Juſtice, ſo that during the ſaid Space of ſix Months, they may be able to recover their Goods and Effects entruſted as well to the Publick as to private Perſons.

III.

It is likewiſe agreed and concluded, that the Subjects and Inhabitants of the Kingdoms, Provinces, and Dominions of each of their Royal Majeſties ſhall exerciſe no Acts of Hoſtility and Violence againſt each other, neither by Sea, nor by Land, nor in Rivers, Streams, Ports or Havens, under any Colour or Pretence whatſoever, ſo that the Subjects of either Party ſhall receive no Patent, Commiſſion or Inſtruction for arming and acting at Sea as Privateers, nor Letters of Repriſal, as they are call'd, from any Princes or States, which are Enemies to one Side or the other; nor by Virtue, or under Colour of ſuch Patents, Commiſſions, or Repriſals ſhall they diſturb, infeſt, or any Way prejudice

prejudice or damage the aforesaid Subjects and Inhabitants of the Queen of *Great Britain*, or of the most Christian King, neither shall they arm Ships in such Manner as is abovesaid, or go out to Sea therewith; to which End, as often as it is required by either Side, strict and express Prohibition shall be renewed and published in all the Regions, Dominions, and Territories of each Party wheresoever, that no one shall in any Wise use such Commissions, or Letters of Reprisal under the severest Punishment that can be inflicted on the Transgressors, besides Restitution and full Satisfaction to be given to those to whom they have done any Damage; neither shall any Letters of Reprisal be hereafter granted on either Side by the said Confederates, to the Detriment or Disadvantage of the Subjects of the other, except in such Case only as Justice is deny'd or delay'd, to which Denial or Delay, Credit shall not be given, unless the Petition of the Person who desires the said Letters of Reprisal be communicated to the Minister residing there on the Part of the Prince, against whose Subjects they are to be granted, that within the Space of four Months, or sooner if it be possible, he may evince the contrary, or procure the Performance of what is due to Justice.

IV.

The Subjects and Inhabitants of each of the aforesaid Confederates shall have Liberty, freely and securely, without Licence or Passport, general or special, by Land or by Sea, or any other Way, to go into the Kingdoms, Countries, Provinces, Lands, Islands, Cities, Villages, Towns, walled or unwalled, fortified or un-

fortified, Ports, Dominions, or Territories whatſoever of the other Confederate in *Europe*, there to enter, and to return from thence, to abide there, or to paſs through the ſame; and in the mean Time to buy and purchaſe, as they pleaſe, all Things neceſſary for their Subſiſtence and Uſe, and they ſhall be treated with all mutual Kindneſs and Favour; provided, however, that in all theſe Matters they behave and comport themſelves conformably to the Laws and Statutes, and live and converſe with each other friendly and peaceably, and keep up reciprocal Concord by all Manner of good Underſtanding.

V.

The Subjects of each of their Royal Majeſties may have Leave and Licence to come with their Ships, as alſo with the Merchandizes and Goods on board the ſame (the Trade and Importation whereof are not prohibited by the Laws of either Kingdom) to the Lands, Countries, Cities, Ports, Places, and Rivers of either Side in *Europe*, to enter into the ſame, to reſort thereto, to remain and reſide there, without any Limitation of Time; alſo to hire Houſes, or to lodge with other People, and to buy all lawful Kinds of Merchandizes, where they think fit, from the firſt Workman or Seller, or in any other Manner, whether in the publick Market for the Sale of Things, in Mart-Town, Fairs, or whereſoever thoſe Goods are manufactured or ſold. They may likewiſe lay up and keep in their Magazines and Warehouſes, and from thence expoſe to Sale Merchandizes brought from other Parts, neither ſhall they be in any wiſe obliged, unleſs willingly, and of their own

own Accord, to bring their ſaid Merchandizes to the Marts and Fairs; on this Condition, however, that they ſhall not ſell the ſame by retail in Shops, or any where elſe; but they are not to be loaded with any Impoſitions or Taxes, on Account of the ſaid Freedom of Trade, or for any other Cauſe whatſoever, except what are to be paid for their Ships and Goods, according to the Laws and Cuſtoms received in each Kingdom. And moreover, they ſhall have free Leave, without any Moleſtation, to remove themſelves; alſo, if they ſhall happen to be married, their Wives, Children, and Servants, together with their Merchandizes, Wares, Goods and Effects either bought or imported, whenſoever and whitherſoever they ſhall think fit, out of the Bounds of each Kingdom, by Land and by Sea, on the Rivers and freſh Waters, diſcharging the uſual Duties, notwithſtanding any Law, Privilege, Grant, Immunity or Cuſtom in any wiſe importing the Contrary: But in the Buſineſs of Religion, there ſhall be an entire Liberty allowed to the Subjects of each of the Confederates, as alſo, if they are married, to their Wives and Children; neither ſhall they be compelled to go to the Churches, or to be preſent at the religious Worſhip in any other Place. On the Contrary, they may without any Kind of Moleſtation perform their religious Exerciſes after their own Way, although it be forbid by the Laws of the Kingdom, privately and within their own Walls, and without the Admittance of any other Perſons whatſoever. Moreover, Liberty ſhall not be refuſed to bury the Subjects of either Party, who dye in the Territories of the other in convenient and decent Places, to be appointed for that Purpoſe,

as Occaſion ſhall require. Neither ſhall the dead Bodies of thoſe that are buried be any Ways moleſted. The Laws and Statutes of each Kingdom ſhall remain in full Force, and ſhall duly be put in Execution, whether they relate to Commerce and Navigation, or to any other Right, thoſe Caſes only being excepted, concerning which, it is otherwiſe determined in the Articles of this preſent Treaty.

VI.

The Subjects of each Party ſhall pay the Tolls, Cuſtoms, and Duties of Import and Export, thro' all the Dominions and Provinces of either Party, as are due and accuſtomed. And that it may be certainly known to every one, what are all the ſaid Tolls, Cuſtoms, and Duties of Import and Export, it is likewiſe agreed, that Tables ſhewing the Cuſtoms, Port-Duties, and Impoſts, ſhall be kept in publick Places, both at *London* and in other Towns, within the Dominions of the Queen of *Great-Britain*, and at *Roan*, and other Towns of *France* where Trading is uſed, whereunto Recourſe may be had, as often as any Queſtion or Diſpute ariſes, concerning ſuch Port-Duties, Cuſtoms, and Impoſts, which are to be demanded in ſuch Manner, and no otherwiſe, as ſhall be agreeable to the plain Words and genuine Senſe of the aboveſaid Tables. And if any Officer, or other Perſon in his Name, ſhall under any Pretence publickly or privately, directly, or indirectly, aſk, or take of a Merchant, or of any other Perſon, any Sum of Money, or any Thing elſe, on Account of Right, Dues, Stipend, Exhibition, or Compenſation, altho' it be under the Name of a free Gift, or in any other Manner, or under

der any other Pretence, more or otherwiſe, than what is preſcribed above, in ſuch Caſe the ſaid Officer, or his Deputy, if he be found guilty, and convicted of the ſame before a competent Judge in the Country where the Crime was committed, ſhall give full Satisfaction to the Party that is wronged, and ſhall likewiſe be puniſhed, according to the Direction of the Laws.

VII.

Merchants, Maſters of Ships, Owners, Mariners, Men of all Kinds, Ships, and all Merchandizes in general, and Effects of one of the Confederates, and of his Subjects and Inhabitants, ſhall, on no publick or private Account, by Virtue of any general or ſpecial Edict, be ſeized in any the Lands, Ports, Havens, Shores, or Dominions whatſoever of the other Confederate, for the publick Uſe, for warlike Expeditions, or for any other Cauſe, much leſs for the private Uſe of any one, ſhall they be detained by Arreſts, compelled by Violence, or under any Colour thereof, or in any wiſe moleſted or injured. Moreover, it ſhall be unlawful for the Subjects of both Parties, to take any Thing, or to extort it by Force, except the Perſon to whom it belongs conſent, and it be paid for with ready Money; which, however, is not to be underſtood of that Detention and Seizure, which ſhall be made by the Command and Authority of Juſtice, and by the ordinary Methods, on Account of Debt, or Crimes, in Reſpect whereof, the Proceeding muſt be by Way of Law, according to the Form of Juſtice.

VIII.

Furthermore, it is agreed and concluded as a general Rule, that all and ſingular the Subjects of the moſt ſerene Queen of *Great-Britain*, and of the moſt ſerene the moſt Chriſtian King, in all Countries and Places ſubject to their Power on each Side, as to all Duties, Impoſitions, or Cuſtoms whatſoever, concerning Perſons, Goods, and Merchandizes, Ships, Freights, Seamen, Navigation, and Commerce, ſhall uſe and enjoy the ſame Privileges, Liberties and Immunities at leaſt, and have the like Favour in all Things, as well in the Courts of Juſtice, as in all ſuch Things as relate either to Commerce, or to any other Right whatever, which any foreign Nation the moſt favoured, has, uſes, and enjoys, or may hereafter have, uſe, and enjoy.

IX.

It is farther agreed, that within the Space of two Months after a Law ſhall be made in *Great-Britain*, whereby it ſhall be ſufficiently provided, that no more Cuſtoms or Duties be paid for Goods and Merchandizes brought from *France* to *Great-Britain*, than what are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like Nature, imported into *Great-Britain*, from any other Country in *Europe*; and that all Laws made in *Great-Britain* ſince the Year 1664, for prohibiting the Importation of any Goods and Merchandizes coming from *France*, which were not prohibited before the Time, be repealed; the general Tariff made in *France* the 18th Day Day of *September* in the Year 1664, ſhall take Place again, and the Duties payable in *France*

by

by the Subjects of *Great-Britain*, for Goods imported and exported, shall be paid according to the Tenour of the Tariff abovementioned, and shall not exceed the Rule therein settled, in the Provinces whereof Mention is there made; and in the other Provinces, the Duty shall not be payable, otherwise than according to the Rule at that Time prescribed. And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, or Decrees made in *France*, since the said Tariff of the Year 1664, and contrary thereunto, in respect to the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great-Britain* shall be repealed. But whereas it is urged on the Part of *France*, that certain Merchandizes, that is to say, Manufactures of Wool, Sugar, salted Fish, and the Product of Whales, be excepted out of the Rule of the abovementioned Tariff, and likewise other other Heads of Matters belonging to this Treaty remain, which having been proposed on the Part of *Great-Britain*, have not yet been mutually adjusted, a Specification of all which is contained in a separate Instrument, subscribed by the Ambassadors Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiaries on both Sides. It is hereby provided and agreed, that within two Months from the Exchange of the Ratifications of this Treaty, Commissaries on both Sides shall meet at *London*, to consider of, and remove the Difficulties concerning the Merchandizes to be excepted out of the Tariff of the Year 1664, and concerning the other Heads, which, as is abovesaid, are not yet wholly adjusted. And at the same Time, the said Commissaries shall likewise endeavour (which seems to be very much for the Interest of both Nations) to have the Methods of Commerce on one Part, and of the other, more thoroughly examined, and to find out and esta-

blish

bliſh juſt and beneficial Means on both Sides, for removing the Difficulties in this Matter, and for regulating the Duties mutually. But it is always underſtood and provided, that all and ſingular the Articles of this Treaty, do in the mean while remain in their full Force, and eſpecially that nothing be deemed, under any Pretence whatſoever, to hinder the Benefit of the general Tariff of the Year 1664, from being granted to the Subjects of her Royal Majeſty of *Great-Britain*, and the ſaid *Britiſh* Subjects, from having and enjoying the ſame, without any Delay or Tergiverſation, within the Space of two Months, after a Law is made in *Great-Britain*, as aboveſaid, in as ample Manner and Form, as the Subjects of any Nation, the moſt favoured, might have and enjoy the Benefit of the aforeſaid Tariff, any Thing to be done or diſcuſſed, by the ſaid Commiſſaries to the Contrary, in any wiſe notwithſtanding.

X.

The Duties on Tobacco imported into *France*, either in the Leaf, or prepared, ſhall be reduced hereafter to the ſame moderate Rate as the ſaid Tobacco, of the Growth of any Country in *Europe*, or *America*, being brought into *France*, does, or ſhall pay. The Subjects on both Sides ſhall alſo pay the ſame Duties in *France* for the ſaid Tobacco: There ſhall be likewiſe an equal Liberty of ſelling it; and the *Britiſh* Subjects ſhall have the ſame Laws as the Merchants of *France* themſelves have and enjoy.

XI. It

XI.

It is likewiſe concluded that the Impoſition or Tax of fifty *Sols Tournois* laid on *Britiſh* Ships in *France*, for every Ton, ſhall wholly ceaſe, and be from henceforward annulled. In like Manner, the Tax of 5 *s.* Sterling, laid on *French* Ships in *Great Britain* for every Ton, ſhall ceaſe; neither ſhall the ſame, or any the like Impoſitions, be laid hereafter on the Ships of the Subjects on either Side.

XII.

It is further agreed and concluded, that it ſhall be wholly free for all Merchants, Commanders of Ships, and other the Subjects of the Queen of *Great Britain*, in all Places of *France*, to manage their own Buſineſs themſelves, or to commit them to the Management of whomſoever they pleaſe; nor ſhall they be obliged to make Uſe of any Interpreter or Broker, nor to pay them any Salary, unleſs they chuſe to make Uſe of them. Moreover, Maſters of Ships ſhall not be obliged in loading or unloading their Ships, to make Uſe of thoſe Workmen, either at *Bourdeaux*, or in any other Places, as may be appointed by publick Authority for that Purpoſe, but it ſhall be entirely free for them to load or unload their Ships by themſelves, or to make Uſe of ſuch Perſons in loading or unloading the ſame as they ſhall think fit, without the Payment of any Salary to any other whomſoever; neither ſhall they be forced to unload any Sort of Merchandizes, either into other Ships, or to receive them into their own, or to wait for their being loaded longer than they pleaſe. And all and every the Subjects of the moſt Chriſtian

ſtian King, ſhall reciprocally have and enjoy the ſame Privileges and Liberty in all Places in *Europe* ſubject to the Dominion of *Great Britain.*

XIII.

It ſhall be wholly lawful and free for Merchants and others, being Subjects either to the Queen of *Great Britain*, or to the moſt Chriſtian King, by Will, and any other Diſpoſition made, either during the Time of Sickneſs, or at any other Time before, or at the Point of Death, to deviſe or give away their Merchandizes, Effects, Money, Debts belonging to them, and all moveable Goods, which they have, or ought to have at the Time of their Death, within the Dominions, and any other Places belonging to the Queen of *Great Britain*, and to the moſt Chriſtian King. Moreover, whether they die, having made their Will, or inteſtate, their lawful Heirs, and Executors or Adminiſtrators, reſiding in either of the Kingdoms, or coming from any other part, although they be not naturalized, ſhall freely and quietly receive and take Poſſeſſion of all the ſaid Goods and Effects whatſoever, according to the Law of *Great Britain* and *France* reſpectively; in ſuch Manner, however, that the Wills, and Right of entering upon the Inheritances of Perſons inteſtate muſt be proved according to Law, as well by the Subjects of the Queen of *Great Britain*, as by the Subjects of the moſt Chriſtian King, in thoſe Places where each Perſon died, whether that may happen in *Great Britain* or in *France*, any law Statute, Edict, Cuſtom or *Droit de Aubene*, whatever to the contrary, notwithſtanding.

XIV.

A Diſpute ariſing between any Commander of the Ships on both Sides, and his Seamen in any Port of the other Party, concerning Wages due to the ſaid Seamen, or other civil Cauſes, the Magiſtrate of the Place ſhall require no more from the Perſon accuſed, than that he give to the Accuſer a Declaration in writing, witneſſed by the Magiſtrate, whereby he ſhall be bound to anſwer that Matter before a competent Judge in his own Country, which being done, it ſhall not be lawful either for the Seamen to deſert their Ship, or to hinder the Commander from proſecuting his Voyage. It ſhall moreover be lawful for the Merchants on both Sides, in the Places of their Abode, or elſwhere, to keep Books of their Accounts and Affairs as they ſhall think fit, and to have an Intercourſe of Letters, in ſuch Language or Idiom as they ſhall pleaſe, without any Moleſtation or Search whatſoever. But if it ſhould happen to be neceſſary for them to produce their Books of Accounts for deciding any Diſpute and Controverſy, in ſuch Caſe they ſhall be obliged to bring into Court the entire Books or Writings, but ſo as that the Judge may not have Liberty to inſpect any other Articles in the ſaid Books, than ſuch as ſhall relate to the Teſtimony or Authority in Queſtion, or ſuch as ſhall be neceſſary to give Credit to the ſaid Books. Neither ſhall it be lawful, under any Pretence, to take the ſaid Books or Writings forcibly out of the Hands of the Owners, or to retain them, the Caſe of Bankrupcy only excepted. Neither ſhall the ſaid Subjects of the Queen of *Great Britain* be obliged to write their Accounts, Copies of Letters,

Acts

Acts or Instruments relating to Trade on stamped Paper, in *French*, *Papier timbre*, except their Day-Book, which, that it may be produced as Evidence in any Law-Suit, ought according to the Laws, which all Persons trading in *France* are to observe, to be subscribed *Gratis* by the Judge, and signed by his own Hand.

XV.

It shall not be lawful for any foreign Privateers, not being Subjects of one or of the other of the Confederates, who have Commissions from any other Prince or State, in Enmity with either Nation, to fit their Ships in the Ports of one or the other of the aforesaid Parties; to sell what they have taken, or in any other Manner whatever, to exchange either Ships, Merchandizes, or any other Ladings. Neither shall they be allowed even to purchase Victuals, except such as shall be necessary for their going to the next Port of that Prince from whom they have Commissions.

XVI.

The Ships of both Parties being laden, sailing along the Coasts or Shores of the other; and being forced by Storm into the Havens or Ports, or coming to Land in any other Manner, shall not be obliged there to unlade their Goods, or any part thereof, or to pay any Duty, unless they do of their own Accord unlade their Goods there, or dispose of any Part of their Lading. But it may be lawful to take out of the Ship, and to sell, Leave being first obtained from those who have the Inspection of Sea Affairs, a small part of their Lading, for this End only, that Necessaries, either for the Refreshment

or victualling of the Ship may be purchaſed; and in that Caſe, the whole Lading of the Ship ſhall not be ſubject to pay the Duties, but that ſmall Part only, which has been taken out and ſold.

XVII.

It ſhall be lawful for all and ſingular the Subjects of the Queen of *Great Britain*, and of the moſt Chriſtian King to ſail with their Ships with all manner of Liberty and Security, no Diſtinction being made who are the Proprietors of the Merchandizes laden thereon from any Port to the Places of thoſe who are now or ſhall be hereafter at Enmity with the Queen of *Great Britain* or the moſt Chriſtian King; it ſhall likewiſe be lawful for the Subjects and Inhabitants aforeſaid to ſail with the Ships and Merchandizes aforementioned, and to trade with the ſame Liberty and Security from the Places, Ports and Havens of thoſe who are Enemies of both, or of either Party, without any Oppoſition or Diſturbance whatſoever, not only directly from the Places of the Enemy aforementioned, to neutral Places, but alſo from one Place belonging to an Enemy to another Place beloning to an Enemy, whether they be under the Juriſdiction of the ſame Prince, or under ſeveral. And as it is now ſtipulated concerning Ships and Goods, that free Ships ſhall alſo give a Freedom to Goods, and that every Thing ſhall be deemed to be free and exempt which ſhall be found on board the Ships belonging to the Subjects of either of the Confederates, altho' the whole Lading, or any Part thereof ſhould appertain to the Enemies of either of their Majeſties, contraband Goods being always excepted, on the Diſcovery whereof Matters

ſhall

ſhall be managed according to the Senſe of the ſubſequent Articles. It is alſo agreed in like Manner, that the ſame Liberty be extended to Perſons who are on board a free Ship with this Effect, that altho' the Enemies to both, or to either Party, they are not to be taken out of that free Ship unleſs they are Soldiers, and in actual Service of the Enemies.

XVIII.

This Liberty of Navigation and Commerce ſhall extend to all Kind of Merchandizes, excepting thoſe only which follow in the next Article, and which are ſignified by the Name of Contraband.

XIX.

Under this Name of contraband or prohibited Goods ſhall be comprehended Arms, great Guns, Bombs with their Fuſees, and other Things belonging to them, Fire-Balls, Gun-Powder, Match, Cannon Balls, Pikes, Swords, Lances, Spears, Halberds, Mortars, Petards, Granadoes, Saltpetre, Muſkets, Muſket-balls, Helmets, Head-pieces, Breaſt-plates, Coats of Mail, and the like Kinds of Arms proper for arming Soldiers, Muſket-Reſts, Belts, Horſes with their Furniture, and all other warlike Inſtruments whatever.

XX.

Theſe Merchandizes which follow, ſhall not be reckoned among prohibited Goods; that is to ſay, all Sorts of Cloths, and all other Manufactures woven of any Wool, Flax, Silk, Cotton, or any other Materials whatever; all Kind of Cloaths and wearing Apparel, together with the Species whereof they are uſed to be made, Gold and Silver, as well coined as uncoined, Tin, Iron,

Iron, Lead, Copper, Braſs, Coals; as alſo Wheat and Barley, and any other Kind of Corn and Pulſe; Tobacco, and likewiſe all manner of Spices, ſalted and ſmoaked Fleſh, ſalted Fiſh, Cheeſe and Butter, Beer, Oyles, Wines, Sugars, and all Sorts of Salt, and in general, all Proviſions which ſerve for the Nouriſhment of Mankind, and the Suſtenance of Life. Furthermore, all Kinds of Cotton, Hemp, Flax, Tar, Pitch, Ropes, Cables, Sails, Sail-Cloths, Anchors, and any Parts of Anchors; alſo Ship-Maſts, Planks and Boards, and Beams, of what Trees ſoever, and all other Things proper, either for building or repairing Ships, and all other Goods whatever, which have not been worked into the Form of any Inſtrument or Thing prepared for War, by Land or by Sea, ſhall not be reputed contraband, much leſs ſuch as have been already wrought and made up for another Uſe; all which ſhall wholly be reckoned among free Goods, as likewiſe all other Merchandizes and Things which are not comprehended and particularly mentioned in the preceding Article, ſo that they may be tranſported and carried in the freeſt manner by the Subjects of both the Confederates, even to Places belonging to an Enemy, ſuch Towns or Places being only excepted, as are at that Time beſieged, blocked up round about, or inveſted.

XXI.

To the End, that all manner of Diſſentions and Quarrels may be avoided and prevented on one Side and t'other, it is agreed, that in Caſe either of their Royal Majeſties who are allied, ſhould be engaged in War, the Ships and Veſ-

ſels belonging to the Subjects of the other Ally muſt be furniſhed with Sea Letters or Paſſports, expreſſing the Name, Property, and Bulk of the Ship; as alſo the Name and Place of Habitation of the Maſter and Commander of the ſaid Ship, that it may appear thereby, that the Ship really and truly belongs to the Subjects of one of the Princes; which Paſſports ſhall be made out and granted, according to the Form annexed to this Treaty: They ſhall likewiſe be recalled every Year; that is, if the Ship happens to return Home within the Space of a Year.

It is likewiſe agreed, that ſuch Ships being laden, are to be provided, not only with Paſſports as abovementioned, but alſo with Certificates containing the ſeveral Particulars of the Cargo, the Place whence the Ship ſail'd, and whither ſhe is bound, that ſo it may be known whether any forbidden or contraband Goods, as are enumerated in the 19th Article of this Treaty, be on board the ſame, which Certificates ſhall be made out by the Officer of the Place whence the Ship ſet ſail, in the accuſtomed Form.

And if any one ſhall think fit or adviſable to expreſs in the ſaid Certificates the Perſons to whom they belong, he may freely do ſo.

XXII.

The Ships of the Subjects and Inhabitants of both their ſerene Royal Majeſties coming to any of the Sea-Coaſts within the Dominions of either of the Confederates, but not willing to enter into Port, or being entered, yet not being willing to ſhew or to ſell the Cargoes of their Ships, ſhall not be obliged to give an Account of their Lading, unleſs they are ſuſpected upon ſure Evidence, of carrying to the Enemies of the other Confederate

Confederate, prohibited Goods, called contraband.

XXIII.

And in Case of the said manifest Suspicion, the said Subjects and Inhabitants of the Dominions of both their most serene Royal Majesties shall be obliged to exhibit in the Ports their Passports and Certificates, in the manner before specified.

XXIV.

But in Case the Ships of the Subjects and Inhabitants of both their most serene Royal Majesties, either on the Sea-Coast. or on the high Seas, shall meet with the Men of War of the other, or with Privateers, the said Men of War and Privateers, for preventing any Inconveniencies, are to remain out of Cannon-shot, and to send a Boat to the Merchant Ship, which has been met with, and shall enter her with two or three Men only, to whom the Master or Commander of such Ship or Vessel shall shew his Passport, concerning the the Property thereof, made out according to the Form annexed to this present Treaty; and the Ship which shall exhibit one shall have free Passage; and it shall be wholly unlawful to molest her, search, or compel her to quit her intended Course.

XXV.

But that Merchant Ship of the other Party, which intends to go to a Port at Enmity with the other Confederate, or concerning whose Voyage, and the Sort of Goods on Board, there may be just Suspicion, shall be obliged to exhibit, either on the high Seas, or in the Ports and Havens, not only her Passports, but her Certificates, expressing, that they are not of the Kind of Goods

prohibited, which are ſpecified in the 19th Article.

XXVI.

But if one Party, on the exhibiting the above-ſaid Certificates, mentioning the Particulars of the Things on Board, ſhould diſcover any Goods of that Kind which are declared contraband or prohibited by the 19th Article of this Treaty, deſigned for a Port ſubject to the Enemy of the other, it ſhall be unlawful to break up the Hatches of that Ship, wherein the ſame ſhall happen to be found, whether ſhe belong to the Subjects of *Great Britain* or of *France*, to open the Cheſts, Packs, or Caſks therein, or to remove even the ſmalleſt Parcel of the Goods, unleſs the Lading be brought on Shore, in the Preſence of the Officers of the Court of Admiralty, and an Inventory thereof made; but there ſhall be no Allowance to ſell, exchange, or alienate the ſame in any manner, unleſs after that due and lawful Proceſs ſhall have been had againſt ſuch prohibited Goods, and the Judges of the Admiralty reſpectively ſhall, by a Sentence pronounced, have confiſcated the ſame, ſaving always as well the Ship itſelf, as the other Goods found therein, which by this Treaty are to be eſteemed free; neither may they be detained on Pretence of their being, as it were, infected by the prohibited Goods, much leſs ſhall they be confiſcated as lawful Prize: But if not the whole Cargo, but only part thereof, ſhall conſiſt of prohibited or contraband Goods, and the Commander of the Ship ſhall be ready and willing to deliver them to the Captor, who has diſcovered them, in ſuch Caſe the Captor having received thoſe Goods, ſhall forthwith diſcharge the Ship, and not hinder her

by

by any means, freely to profecute the Voyage on which ſhe was bound.

XXVII.

On the contrary it is agreed, that whatever ſhall be found to be laden by the Subjects and Inhabitants of either Party, on any Ship belonging to the Enemy of the other, and his Subjects, the whole, although it be not of the Sort of prohibited Goods, may be confiſcated in the ſame manner as if it belonged to the Enemy himſelf, except thoſe Goods and Merchandizes as were put on board ſuch Ship before the Declaration of War; or even after ſuch Declaration, if ſo be, it were done within the Time and Limits following; that is to ſay, if they were put on board ſuch Ship in any Port and Place within the Space of ſix Weeks after ſuch Declaration within the Bounds, called the *Naze* in *Norway*, and the Soundings; of two Months from the Soundings to the City of *Gibraltar*; of ten Weeks in the *Mediterranean* Sea; and of eight Months in any other Country or Place in the World; ſo that the Goods of the Subjects of either Prince, whether they be of the Nature of ſuch as are prohibited, or otherwiſe, which, as is aforeſaid, were put on board any Ship belonging to an Enemy before the War, or after the Declaration of the ſame, within the Time and Limits aboveſaid, ſhall no Ways be liable to Confiſcation, but ſhall well and truly be reſtored, without Delay, to the Proprietors demanding the ſame; but ſo, as that if the ſaid Merchandizes be contraband, it ſhall not be any Ways unlawful to carry them afterwards to the Ports belonging to the Enemy.

XXVIII.

And that more abundant Care, may be taken for the Security of the Subjects of both their moſt ſerene Royal Majeſties, that they ſuffer no Injury by the Men of War or Privateers of the other Party, all the Commanders of the Ships of the Queen of *Great Britain*, and of the moſt Chriſtian King, and all their Subjects, ſhall be forbid doing any Injury or Damage to the other Side; and if they act to the contrary, they ſhall be puniſhed, and ſhall moreover be bound to make Satisfaction for all Cauſe of Damage, and the Intereſt thereof, by Reparation, under the Bond and Obligation of their Perſon and Goods.

XXIX.

For this Cauſe, all Commanders of Privateers, before they receive their Patents, or ſpecial Commiſſions, ſhall hereafter be obliged to give before a competent Judge, ſufficient Security by good Bail, who are Men able to pay, and have no Intereſt in the ſaid Ship, and are each bound in the whole for the Sum of 1500*l.* Sterling, or 16500 *Livres-Tournois*; or if ſuch Ship be provided with above 150 Seamen or Soldiers, for the Sum of 3000*l.* Sterling, or 33000 *Livres Tournois*, that they will make entire Satisfaction for any Damages and Injuries whatſoever, which they, or their Officers, or others in their Service commit during their Courſe at Sea, contrary to this preſent Treaty, or the Edicts of either of their moſt ſerene Royal Majeſties, publiſhed by Virtue thereof, under Penalty likewiſe of having their ſpecial Commiſſions revoked and annulled,

XXX.

Both their abovenamed Royal Majeſties being willing to ſhew a mutual and equal Favour in

all

all their Dominions reſpectively, to the Subjects of each other, in the ſame Manner as if they were their own Subjects, will give ſuch Orders as ſhall be neceſſary and effectual, that Juſtice be adminiſter'd concerning Prizes in the Court of Admiralty, according to the Rule of Equity and Right, and the Articles of this Treaty, by Judges who are above all Suſpicion, and who have no Manner of Intereſt in the Cauſe in diſpute.

XXXI.

Whenever the Ambaſſadors of each of their Royal Majeſties abovenam'd, and other their Miniſters having a publick Character, and reſiding in the Court of the other Prince, ſhall complain of the Unjuſtneſs of the Sentences which have been given, their Majeſties, on each Side, ſhall take Care, that the ſame be reviſed and re-examined in their reſpective Councils, that it may appear whether the Directions and Proviſions preſcribed in this Treaty have been obſerved, and have had their due Effect: They ſhall likewiſe take Care, that this Matter be effectually provided for, and that Right be done to every Complainant, within the Space of three Months.

However, before or after Judgment given, the Reviſion thereof ſtill depending, for the avoiding of all Damage, it ſhall not be lawful to ſell the Goods in Diſpute, or to unlade them, unleſs with the Conſent of the Perſon concerned.

XXXII.

A Suit being commenced between the Captors of Prizes on one Part, and the Reclaimers of the ſame on the other, and a Sentence or Decree being given in Favour of the Reclaimer, that

ſame Sentence or Decree, Security being given, ſhall be put in Execution, the Appeal of the Captor to a ſuperior Judge in any wiſe notwithſtanding; which, however, is now to be obſerved, when Judgment has been given againſt the Reclaimer.

XXXIII.

In Caſe that either Ships of War, or Merchant Men, forced by Storm or other Misfortune, be driven on Rocks or Shelves on one or the other Party, and are there broken to Pieces and Shipwreck'd, whatever Part of the Ships, or Tackling thereof, as alſo of the Goods and Merchandizes ſhall be ſaved, or the Produce thereof, ſhall be faithfully reſtor'd to the Proprietors, Reclaimers, or their Factors, paying only the Expences of preſerving the ſame, in ſuch Manner as it may be ſettled on both Sides, concerning the Rate of Salvage: Saving at the ſame Time the Rights and Cuſtoms of each Nation.

And both their ſerene Royal Majeſties will interpoſe their Authority, that ſuch of their Subjects may be ſeverely puniſhed, who in the like Accident ſhall be found guilty of Inhumanity.

XXXIV.

It ſhall be free for the Subjects of each Party to employ ſuch Advocates, Attornies, Notaries, Solicitors and Factors, as they ſhall think fit; to which End the ſaid Advocates, and others abovemention'd, may be appointed by the ordinary Judges, if it be needful, and the Judges be requir'd thereunto.

And

XXXV.

And that Commerce and Navigation may be more ſecurely and freely follow'd, it is farther agreed, that neither the Queen of *Great-Britain*, nor the moſt Chriſtian King ſhall receive any Pyrates and Robbers into any of their Ports, Havens, Cities, or Towns; neither ſhall they permit them to be received into their Ports to be protected, or aſſiſted by any Manner of Harbouring or Support by any the Subjects or Inhabitants of either of them; but they ſhall rather cauſe all ſuch Pyrates and Sea Robbers, or whoever ſhall receive, conceal, or aſſiſt them, to be apprehended, and puniſhed as they deſerve, for a Terror and Example to others.

And all Ships, Goods, or Merchandizes, being pyratically taken by them, and brought into the Ports of the Kingdom of either, as much as can be found, although they have been by Sale convey'd to others, ſhall be reſtored to the lawful Owners, or their Deputies, having Inſtruments of Delegation, and an Authority of Procuration for Reclaiming the ſame; and Indemniſation ſhall be made, proper Evidence being firſt given in the Court of Admiralty, for proving the Property.

And all Ships and Merchandizes, of what Nature ſoever, which can be reſcued out of their Hands on the high Seas, ſhall be brought into ſome Port of either Kingdom, and ſhall be deliver'd to the Cuſtody of the Officers of that Port, with this Intention, that they be deliver'd entire to the true Proprietor, as ſoon as due and ſufficient Proof ſhall have been made concerning the Property thereof.

XXXVI.

It ſhall be lawful as well for the Ships o War of both their moſt ſerene Royal Majeſties, as for Privateers, to carry whitherſoever they pleaſe the Ships and Goods taken from their Enemies; neither ſhall they be oblig'd to pay any Thing to the Officers of the Admiralty, or to any other Judges; nor ſhall the aforementioned Prizes, when they come to, and enter the Ports of either of their moſt ſerene Royal Majeſties, be detain'd by Arreſt: Neither ſhall Searchers, or other Officers of thoſe Places, make Examination concerning them, or the Validity thereof; but rather they ſhall have Liberty to hoiſt Sail at any Time, to depart and to carry their Prizes to that Place, which is mention'd in their Commiſſion or Patent, which the Commanders of ſuch Ships of War ſhall be oblig'd to ſhew: On the Contrary, no Shelter or Refuge ſhall be given in their Ports to ſuch as have made a Prize upon the Subjects of either of their Royal Majeſties.

And if perchance ſuch Ships ſhall come in, being forced by Streſs of Weather, or the Danger of the Sea, particular Care ſhall be taken (as far as it is not repugnant to former Treaties, made with other Kings and States) that they go from thence, and retire elſewhere as ſoon as poſſible.

XXXVII.

Neither of their moſt ſerene Royal Majeſties ſhall permit, that the Ships or Goods of the other be taken upon the Coaſts, or in the Ports or Rivers of their Dominions, by Ships of War, or others having Commiſſion from

from any Prince, Commonwealth, or Town whatſoever.

And in Caſe ſuch a Thing ſhould happen, both Parties ſhall uſe their Authority and united Force, that the Damage done be made good.

XXXVIII.

If it hereafter ſhall happen through Inadvertency, or otherwiſe, that any Contraventions, or Inconveniencies on either Side riſe concerning the Obſervation of this Treaty, the Friendſhip and good Intelligence ſhall not immediately thereupon be broken off; but this Treaty ſhall ſubſiſt in all its Force, and a proper Remedy for removing the Inconveniencies ſhall be procured, as likewiſe Reparation of the Contraventions; and if the Subjects of the one or the other be found in Fault, they only ſhall be ſeverely puniſhed and chaſtiſed.

XXXIX.

But if it ſhall appear that a Captor made uſe of any Kind of Torture upon the Maſter of the Ship, the Ship's Crew, or others who ſhall be on board any Ship belonging to the Subjects of the other Party; in ſuch Caſe, not only the Ship itſelf, together with the Perſons, Merchandizes, and Goods whatſoever, ſhall be forthwith releaſed without any farther Delay, and ſet entirely free; but alſo ſuch as ſhall be found guilty of ſo great a Crime, as alſo the Acceſſaries thereunto, ſhall ſuffer the moſt ſevere Puniſhment, ſuitable to their Crime; this the Queen of *Great-Britain*, and the moſt Chriſtian King do mutually engage ſhall be done without any Reſpect of Perſons.

ARTICLE I.

NO Manufactures of either Kingdom, and the Dominions belonging thereunto, ſhall hereafter be ſubject to be inſpected and confiſcated, under any Pretence of Fraud or Defect in making or working them, or becauſe of any other Imperfection therein; but abſolute Freedom ſhall be allow'd to the Buyer and Seller, to bargain and agree for the ſame as they ſhall ſee good; any Law, Statute, Edict, Arreſt, Privilege, Grant, or Cuſtom to the contrary notwithſtanding.

II.

And foraſmuch as a certain Uſage, not confirm'd by any Law, has obtain'd in ſeveral Towns of *Great-Britain* and of *France*; that is to ſay, that every one for coming in, and going out, ſhall pay a Tax, call'd in *Engliſh*, Head-Money, and in *French*, *Du Chef*, it is concluded, that neither the ſame, nor any other Duty on that Account ſhall any more be exacted.

III.

And the *Britiſh* Merchants ſhall not hereafter be forbidden to ſell Tobacco to any Buyer whom they pleaſe; for which Purpoſe, the letting out the Duties on the ſaid Tobacco to Farmers, which has been hitherto practiſed, ſhall ceaſe, neither ſhall ſuch Farming be uſed again hereafter.

IV.

The following Caſe only being excepted, that is to ſay, where *Britiſh* Ships ſhall take up Merchandizes

chandizes in one Port, and carry them to another Port of *France*, in which Caſe, and no other, the *Britiſh* Subjects ſhall be obliged to pay the Duties abrogated and aboliſhed by this Article, only in Proportion to the Goods which they take in, and not according to the Bulk of the Ship.

V.

Whereas ſeveral Kinds of Goods contained in Caſks, Cheſts, or other Caſes, for which the Duties are paid by Weight, will be exported from, and imported into *France* by *Britiſh* Subjects: It is therefore agreed, that in ſuch Caſe, the aforeſaid Duties ſhall be payable only according to the Weight of the Goods themſelves; but the Weight of the Caſks, Cheſts, and other Caſes whatever, ſhall be deducted in ſuch Manner, and in ſuch Proportion, as has been hitherto in Uſe in *England*, and is ſtill practiſed.

VI.

It is farther agreed, that if any Miſtake or Error ſhall on either Side be committed by any Maſter of a Ship, his Interpreter, or Factor, or by others employed by him, in making the Entry or Declaration of the Goods on board his Ship, for ſuch Defect, if ſo be ſome Fraud does not evidently appear, neither the Ship nor the Lading thereof ſhall be ſubject to be confiſcated; but it ſhall be free for the Proprietors to take back again ſuch Goods, as were omitted in the Entry or Declaration of the Maſter of the Ship, paying only the accuſtomed Duties, according to the Rates ſettled in the Books; neither ſhall the Merchants, or the Maſter of the Ship loſe the ſaid Goods, or ſuffer any other Puniſhment, if ſo be that the ſaid Goods were not brought on Shore before the Declaration was made, and the Cuſtoms paid for the ſame. And

VII.

And whereas the Quality of the Ship, Maſter, and Goods, will ſufficiently appear from ſuch Paſſports and Certificates, it ſhall not be lawful for the Commanders of Men of War to exact any other Verification under any Title whatſoever.

But if any Merchant Ship ſhall want ſuch Paſſports or Certificates, then it may be examined by a proper Judge, but in ſuch Manner, as if it ſhall be found from other Proofs and Documents, that it does truly belong to the Subjects of either of the Confederates, and does not contain any prohibited Goods, deſigned to be carried to the Enemy of the other; it ſhall not be liable to Confiſcation, but ſhall be releaſed, together with its Cargo, in order to proceed on its Voyage, ſince it may often happen that ſuch Papers could not come to the Ship when ſhe was ſetting ſail from any Port, or that they have been loſt by ſome Chance or other, or that they have been taken away from the Ship.

And if beſides the Paſſports and Certificates made according to the Form of their Treaty, other Paſſports and Certificates happen to be found in the Ship in another Form, and, perhaps, according to the Preſcription of Treaties made with others, no Pretence ſhall be taken from thence, of detaining, or in any wiſe moleſting, either the Ship, or Men, or Goods.

If the Maſter of the Ship named in the Paſſports be removed by Death, or any other Cauſe, and another be put in his Place, the Paſſports ſhall nevertherleſs retain their Force, and the Ships, and Goods laden thereon, ſhall be ſecure.

VIII.

It is farther provided on both Sides, and ſhall be taken for a general Rule, that a Ship and Goods,

Goods, although they have remain'd in the Enemies Power for four and twenty Hours, ſhall not therefore be eſteem'd as Capture, and be immediately made a Prize; but if on other Accounts they ought to be reſtor'd, they may be reclaim'd, and ſhall be given again to the Proprietors.

IX.

It ſhall be free for both their Royal Majeſties, for the Advantage of their Subjects trading to the Kingdoms and Dominions of the other, to conſtitute national Conſuls of their own Subjects, who ſhall enjoy that Right and Liberty which belongs to them, by Reaſon of the Exerciſe of their Function; but as to the Places where ſuch Conſuls are to be appointed, both Sides ſhall afterwards agree between themſelves.

In witneſs whereof, we the Ambaſſadors Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiaries of her ſacred Royal Majeſty of *Great-Britain*, and of his ſacred Royal moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, have ſubſcribed this preſent Inſtrument with our Hands, and ſet our Seals thereunto.

At *Utrecht* the 31ſt Day of the Month of *March*,
——— 11th of *April*,
In the Year 1713.

L. S. *Joh. Briſtol*, C. P. S. L. S. *Huxelles*,
L. S. *Strafford*. L. S. *Meſnager*.

ARTICLE I.

WHalebone cut and prepared, Fins and Oils of Whales, ſhall pay at all Places of Importation in the Kingdom, the Duties appointed by the Tariff of the 7th of *December*, 1699.

II. Cloths,

II.

Cloths, Ratines and Serges, ſhall be likewiſe ſubject to the ſame Duties of the Tariff of the 7th of *December* 1699; and in order to facilitate the Trade thereof, it ſhall be allowed to import by St. *Valery* upon the *Somme*, by *Rouen*, and by *Bourdeaux*, where theſe Goods ſhall be ſubject to Viſitation, in the ſame Manner as thoſe which are made in the Kingdom.

III.

Salt-fiſh in Barrels only are to be imported into the Kingdom, and at all Places of Entrance in the Kingdom, Countries, and Territories under the Dominion of the King; even at all free Ports, the Duties of Landing and of Conſumption ſhall be paid, which were appointed before the Tariff of 1664, and beſides 40 Livres *per* Laſt, conſiſting of 12 Barrels, weighing each 300 *l.* for the Duties of Entry, which Entry ſhall not be permitted but by St. *Valery* upon the *Somme*, *Rouen*, *Nants*, *Libourne* and *Bourdeaux*, and ſhall remain prohibited at all other Harbours or Ports, as well in the Ocean as in the *Mediterranean*.

IV.

Refined Sugar, in Loaf or in Powdet, white and brown Sugar-Candy, ſhall pay Duties appointed by the Tariff of 1699.

In Confirmation of which, we the underwritten Ambaſſadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiaries of her Majeſty the Queen of *Great-Britain*, and the Moſt Chriſtian King, have ſign'd and ſeal'd theſe Preſents.

At *Utrecht* the 28th Day of *April*,
——— 9th of *May*.
In the Year 1713.

L. S. *Joh. Briſtol*, C. P. S. L. S. *Huxelles*,
L. S. *Strafford*. L. S. *Meſnager*

THE

PREFACE

TO THE

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

THE *following Papers were intended at first to be entirely Political, and relative only to the Conduct of one Person, then at the Helm of our Affairs, but as neither his Vices nor his Blunders could furnish Materials to fill up two Essays a Week, I resolved in the* Interim *to take Notice of those Irregularities and Follies which had crept in upon us, and rendered both Sexes ridiculous in publick, as well as in private Society; I also made Excursions of another Sort, in Order to please my Readers, and gain them insensibly to cast their Eyes over those Essays which were*

of a more ſerious Nature, that all Denominations of People might ſee what a ridiculous Idol they worſhipp'd, and, at the ſame Time, how dangerous his Conduct was, in a Nation where Liberty and publick Virtue is ſo much boaſted of; the Misfortunes which have happened to this Country from his fatal Politicks, are too well known and felt at preſent, to demand a farther Proof; the Tide of Corruption he let in upon all Orders of Men, has ſwept away all publick Spirit, and it is to be feared, has endanger'd the Conſtitution. All thoſe Evils were foreſeen, and many thinking Men ſtood up to oppoſe the Progreſs of ſo unreaſonable a Conduct, but his Power was ſo great, that he ſtood a Siege of almoſt twenty Years, before he was routed; the dreadful Scars that are left upon the Nation from his Adminiſtration, ſhew how near we were to a total Ruin.

Some of theſe Papers were publiſh'd when he was in the Zenith of his Power, and as they were little regarded then, *would have been buried now in the Rubbiſh of Time,* had not a Reaſon more prevalent than even Reſentment or Vanity, oblig'd me to bring them

them forth into Day Light, a Reaſon which might diſarm my Enemies, and ſilence the unrelenting Critick; a Reaſon, which at leaſt, juſtifies me to myſelf, and I hope will find Favour with the Generality of Mankind.

As to the other Characters, which are ſcatter'd about in theſe Works, they will fit ſo many People, that every Body will be pleas'd to make his own Application; it never having been my Deſign to affix Labels but upon great Offenders, ſuch as were a Scandal, or dangerous in human Society. I am ſorry, upon the Account of the Generality of my Readers, that there are ſo many Paſſages diſguis'd, that render them a little obſcure, but they muſt conſider, that Self-preſervation obliges an Author to cover himſelf as well as he can, when he attacks Men in Power, though Reaſon, Truth, or Facts, are the only Arms he makes Uſe of. Men of Buſineſs will eaſily decypher theſe Periods, and Men of Pleaſure, will, I hope, find their Entertainment ſomewhere elſe; not, but I could wiſh, to the eternal Mortification of evil Miniſters, that the Myſteries of Government were laid open to the meaneſt Capacity; if it is the Duty of every Man in Proportion to the Station of Life he is in, to contribute

tribute to the Support of the Government; it is certainly, the Duty of thoſe who diſcover Abuſes in the Adminiſtration to declare them to their fellow Citizens, not wantonly, but maturely, and upon ſuch Grounds, that they may juſtly expect Relief; ſuch Men, I hope, will always be found in this Country, and ſuch Men will always be eſteem'd, till Liberty is no more.

THE

Country Gentleman,

CONSISTING OF

ESSAYS

POLITICAL, and MORAL.

Written in the Year 1726.

THE

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 1. *Friday, March* 11, 1726.

Omne tulit Punctum, qui miſcuit utile dulci.

THE Title of this Paper promiſes ſo little Entertainment to the Reader, that I ſhould not wonder to ſee him lay it down again, before he had read over the firſt Paragraph: For, ſince the Ceſſation of the *Tatler* and *Spectators*, there have been ſo many Pretenders, who have attempted this Manner of Writing, and with ſo little Ability, that People are ſhy of giving themſelves the Trouble of reading over Half a Sheet of Paper, without being aſſured of meeting ſomething uſeful or diverting.

I can't help thinking, however, but that the ſame Spirit may be reviv'd; and that Wit and Humour were not intomb'd with the Authors of the *Spectators*, &c. This Country has ever abounded with Men of diſtinguiſh'd Qualities, and there are Thouſands of happy idle People (if I may be allow'd the Expreſſion) who amuſe

themſelves with ſuch Lucubrations. Theſe Gentlemen, I muſt call to aid this Undertaking; and doubt not, but by their Help, to purſue the ſame Methods of diverting and inſtructing my Countrymen, as were practis'd with Succeſs heretofore. And this I chuſe to do, under the Character of *The* COUNTRY GENTLEMAN; the rather, becauſe there is no Appellation amongſt us, ſo little liable to Suſpicion. But you are not to imagine, I mean, ſuch a Country Gentleman, as is often ſhewn upon the Stage, illiterate, blundering, and apt to be impos'd upon: No, this Perſon, is one, who having had a liberal Education, and look'd into moſt Scenes of Life, has now determin'd to ſit down, and obſerve the Manners of other People; and not only to expoſe the reigning Follies and Vices, which increaſe daily upon us, but pretends to the Authority of a Magiſtrate, and is reſolv'd to put the Laws in Execution againſt all Sorts of Offenders; being convinc'd, that at preſent the Senſe of Shame is not ſo powerful, as the Apprehenſion of Puniſhment. The long Experience he has had both at Home and Abroad, qualifies him for this Undertaking; the Simplicity of his Manners, the Diſintereſtedneſs of his Views, and the Firmneſs of his Principles, makes him intirely impartial and careleſs of whom he may diſoblige; being very well aſſured, no good Man will be offended with what he ſays; and as for others, his firſt Deſign is, to diſcountenance Vice, wherever he meets it; and becauſe ſome People think themſelves out of Danger, if they are not guilty of ſome remarkable, moral or œconomical Evil, the *Country Gentleman* is reſolv'd to purſue them thro' all thoſe little Vanities and Affecta-

tions,

tions, which however harmleſs they may appear to be, yet have their Root in Vice, and often branch out into the moſt dangerous Habits. As he is very ſenſible, theſe Cenſures which chiefly fall on the Ladies, and Lady-like-Gentlemen, he confeſſes it is with ſome Reluctance he attempts this Reformation; becauſe in the firſt Place, he muſt of Neceſſity expoſe thoſe, who were born the Ornaments of Nature, and who contribute ſo much to the Pleaſure of Life: In the next Place, it ſeems beneath the Dignity of *Satire* to take Notice of thoſe odd amphibious Animals in *French*-Habits, who every where infeſt our publick Places; only I know not by what Faſcination it is, Men of Good Underſtanding otherways, ſeem to imitate theſe ſtrange Creatures in their Dreſs and Behaviour, apprehending (I ſuppoſe) that unleſs they did ſo, they would be joſtled out of the Society of the Fair, a Hardſhip that few are able to bear.

By this Time, the Reader may be in ſome Expectation to know, what the *Country-Gentleman*'s Opinion may be in Politicks. Tho' this is a very tender Point, yet he thinks himſelf oblig'd to give ſome Account of his Sentiments on this Head: And the rather, becauſe a Perſon of his Character, has been always underſtood to have been tenacious of thoſe Laws, which were conſtituted for the Preſervation of of the Liberties of the People.

I remember in the Year 1692, when I firſt came from the Univerſity, I had a ſtrange Prejudice to thoſe, who were in the Adminiſtration; for I had been taught, that the Government was founded upon Uſurpation, and ſupported by the Overthrow of all our Laws: But upon looking nearer into the Tranſactions of

thoſe Times, I found every Thing that was done, was neceſſary for the Security of the Liberties and Properties of the People; and I cou'd eaſily reconcile to my Underſtanding, the Truth of that admirable Maxim, *Salus Populi ſuprema Lex.* Having made this Diſcovery, I quitted my old Acquaintance, and found new Pleaſures grow up every Day upon me, in the Society of Men of quite oppoſite Principles. I enjoyed this Happineſs ſome Years in the Fulneſs of Power, 'till by the uncertainty of human Affairs, our Oppoſers got the Adminiſtration into their Hands; and after that, we liv'd ſome Time under a State of Perſecution. Tho' in the Paper-War, that was continued, we had the better in ſeveral Skirmiſhes, yet, finding at laſt, that it was dangerous to ſpeak Truth, I reſolv'd to leave my native Country, and viſit the ſeveral Courts of *Europe* (tho' at laſt my Curioſity carried me much further) having heard, that all deſpotick Princes treat Strangers with more Civility than their own natural Subjects.

Since I came Home again, I find myſelf quite at a Loſs how to behave amongſt my old Acquaintance: Several of thoſe, whom I thought of my Principles, having chang'd their manner of Reaſoning, yet preſerve their old Appellation, or Name of Diſtinction. This has made me a little reſerv'd in Converſation, not knowing of what Conſequence it may be to explain myſelf: And ſince I find the Bill of Rights ſtand in Force, and the Act of Succeſſion unrepealed, my Surprize is the greater; I conclude however, there muſt be ſomething wrong, which I intend to inform myſelf of as ſoon as poſſible: In the mean Time I ſhall obſerve that Impartiality, which becomes a political Writer, and a Lover of his Country.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 2. *Monday, March* 14, 1726.

IT is a great Diſcouragement to me, in the Proſecution of this Work, to find myſelf (as it were) foreſtal'd almoſt, upon every Subject the Mind can think of, by my Predeceſſors, the ingenious Authors of the *Spectators*, &c.

All the Virtues and Vices, Paſſions and Humours of Mankind have been repreſented already in ſo juſt a Light, with that Copiouſneſs of Thought, and Clearneſs of Expreſſion, that tho' I were Maſter even of their happy Talents, there would be but little left for me to do.

I am driven out of the Country by Sir *Roger de Coverly*; *Will. Honeycomb* has engaged all the Ladies: There is ſcarce any Club or Society of Men, that I can venture into; nay, there are very few private Families, that won't ſhut their Doors upon me: The Box-keepers of the *Opera* and *Play-Houſes* have already refus'd me Entrance; even Mr. *Figg* has ordered me to be kept out of the *Boarded-Houſe* in *Mary Bone Fields*: There is hardly a Tradeſman will ſpeak to me; and I had lik'd to have been knocked down by a Prentice t'other Day, for looking at his Sign-Poſt; nay, it is gone ſo far, that I have been

inſulted

inſulted by a Piece of Wood; and *Punch* himſelf has refus'd to act, unleſs I am kept out of the *Puppet-Theatre*: I have been denied Phyſick by all the Quacks in *London*, even for ready Money; and the Lawyers avoid me as they would a *Pauper*: I can't get a Pew at Church, and what is more extraordinary, have been denied a burying Place in *Weſtminſter-Abbey*.

Being confin'd within ſo narrow a Compaſs, my Readers will not be ſurpriz'd to ſee me make Excurſions, and endeavour to enlarge my Quarters; ſometimes by treating of the before mentioned Subjects in a different Light, than they have yet been ſeen in; ſometimes by breaking up new Ground, which can hardly fail of producing ſomething worth the Reader's Trouble, of looking over; now and then I ſhall ſpeak of the important Events of *Europe*, &c. when I can depend upon my Intelligence, and deliver myſelf with Certainty, knowing I cannot have a more commendable Employment, than in endeavouring to undeceive my Countrymen; ſometimes I ſhall tranſcribe the Works of ſome celebrated Author, for the Benefit of ſuch of my Readers, who have Libraries, and don't care to give themſelves the Trouble to look into the Inſide of their Books, as well as for the Inſtruction and Curioſity of others, who are unable to purchaſe thoſe bulky Volumes.

By theſe means, and the Aſſiſtance of thoſe ingenious active Spirits, who are willing to contribute to the publick Emolument, I hope to revive and continue that Entertainment which was once look'd upon amongſt us, as both agreeable and uſeful.

I am aware of thoſe little envious Beings, who will always be comparing theſe Works, with

thoſe of my Predeceſſors, which never can be to my Advantage. I ſhall readily own my Deficiency, and aſſure them to their eternal Diſappointment, I never propos'd to build my Fame upon ſo ſlight a Foundation; and if this won't content them, I ſhall have the Satisfaction, however, to think, that he who is made uneaſy with theſe Writings, confeſſes my Superiority over him.

As for the Uſefulneſs of ſuch Sort of Papers, I need not enlarge upon it, every Body muſt confeſs the Merit of a Deſign to improve the Mind in all Things laudable, and in a manner that ſhall not diſguſt it. The Precepts of Virtue are often bitter and diſagreeable; and therefore muſt be deliver'd in ſomething palatable, that the Patient may take them the eaſier, and that they may have their full Effect; and the beſt Way to root out the Seeds of Vice is, to let the Proprietor ſee how ridiculous it makes him; for ſuch is the Depravity of human Nature, that a Man will dare to be wicked when he won't venture to be ridiculous; beſides, if one does but conſider how many Hours in the Day we are in a State of Inactivity, and want ſomething to do, it may be no ill Amuſement for a few Minutes, to ſee thoſe Pictures of Folly and Abſurdity drawn in ſuch lively Colours, as may prevent our falling into the like Circumſtances.

I know very well, ſome People will be inquiſitive, to find out who it is, that takes upon him this Trouble and Authority to find Fault with other Peoples Behaviour; but as I ſhall take Care not to give Offence, ſo I may without Reproach keep myſelf behind the Screen; but becauſe I would not keep my Reader in

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the Dark, ſince a Man may be gueſs'd at by the Company he keeps, I ſhall inform him, that I generally paſs away my leiſure Hours, with a Gentleman, that formerly was a Man of Pleaſure; in ſhort, there was no Sort of faſhionable Vice he had not his ſhare of; but a cruel Accident gave him an Opportunity of reflecting on his paſt Follies. An Injury he receiv'd from a fine Lady, that wore his Livery (as he calls it) had like to have coſt him his Life; but however, tho' he did recover, yet it has alter'd his Humour; he is now ſtrictly regular in every Thing, and ſomewhat teſty, but 'tis a Peeviſhneſs that is not offenſive, nor does it give him the leaſt Uneaſineſs, that you take Notice of it; but he is withal moſt religiouſly ſincere: This is what endears him to me; he is a ſafe Confident, and a true Friend. I had forgot to tell you one Thing very particular in the Humour of this Gentleman; his Misfortune has made him an avow'd Enemy to the female Sex, inſomuch, that he won't have a woman Servant in his Houſe, except his Nurſe, whom he always calls *Robin*, that he may even deceive himſelf with the Thoughts of having nothing but Males about him.

My other Companion is a Phyſician, a Man of great Learning and Experience, and of ſo remarkable a Humanity, that it is the higheſt Commendation of any one to ſay, he is as good natur'd as the Doctor. His great Practice gives him an Opportunity of looking into the Manners and Humours of Mankind, which tho' he ſpeaks of with a partial Benevolence, yet it ſerves to furniſh Materials for a more exact Obſervation, with theſe two I live in the utmoſt Amity and Freedom, and enjoy in Reality thoſe Sweets of Friendſhip

Friendſhip, which others are only in the Purſuit of: My Converſation with theſe Gentlemen, is what I chiefly depend upon; but whenever it ſhall happen, that any Perſon ſhall deſire to ſee himſelf in Print on this Occaſion, I promiſe, I will do him Juſtice, (unleſs he declares it) at the Concluſion of this Work, as has been practis'd heretofore in the like Circumſtances. At preſent, I venture into the World alone, without any other Support than the Candor and Benevolence of my Countrymen. I don't make this Declaration out of Vanity, but from a Principle of Juſtice, in Order to take away all Poſſibility of any oblique Reflection upon other Perſons, who may be ſuppos'd to be concern'd in this Paper, having laid it down for one of my Maxims in Life, that No-body ſhall ever ſuffer upon my Account, if I can poſſibly prevent it.

To thoſe, who think it is impoſſible for any Thing of this Nature, to be carried on with Spirit without great Aſſiſtance, I ſhall give this Anſwer; That I am as ſenſible as any one can be, of the Weight of this Undertaking, which I ſhall carry on, as far as I am able, with Cheerfulneſs and good Humour; if it grows too heavy for me, I will lay it down, and content myſelf with the Thoughts, that I have been ſufficiently rewarded, if I have contributed in the leaſt to the Pleaſure or Improvement of my Countrymen.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 3. *Friday, March* 18, 1726.

NOTHING is more natural, tho' nothing is more dangerous, than the unlimited Fondneſs of Parents to their Children. The Conſequences of an unbounded Affection, very often produce bad Effects; and by this Means, we often deſtroy the Being, we are moſt ſollicitous to preſerve. I remember, when I firſt came from the Univerſity, I went to viſit an Aunt of mine; and coming in as the Tea was ſerv'd, ſhe had but juſt preſented me with a Diſh, when of a ſudden a Pin, ſtuck ſomewhere behind me, made me ſpring up, and ſpill the ſcalding Liquor upon my Shins. You may imagine, I was a good Deal out of Countenance, while all the Company laugh'd, as they would ſplit their Sides. As ſoon as I had a little collected myſelf, I went to ſit down again, but fell all along upon the Floor; for it ſeems, the little Baggage, that had wounded me before, had (in my Confuſion) pull'd away the Chair. When Matters were a little ſet to Rights, all the Satisfaction I had, was, to hear the Mother of this wild Creature ſay, ſhe had ſerved twenty ſo before me, ſhe hop'd I would not take

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it ill, for it was the——unluckieſt Girl—— I bore my Misfortune as well as I could, but reflected on the Weakneſs of her Parent, who methought, ſhould have taught her more Civility, and good Manners at thoſe Years. This Romp, it ſeems, was a favourite Child, and preferr'd to all the Reſt; becauſe ſhe did more Miſchief. The Action for which ſhe got the greateſt Applauſe, was, the ſetting Fire to a Cradle, in which lay one of her little Siſters. Since that Time, I have never ſeen her; but have heard a melancholy Story of her, that ſhe married her Mother's Footman, and now is only viſible in an Evening, at the Corner of one of the Alleys in *Drury-Lane*.

The Education of Youth, is one of the niceſt and moſt neceſſary Duties of a Parent; though after all the Rules, which have been laid down, the Example of the Parent, but much oftner the Genius and Conſtitution of the Child, determines the Matter. If we meet with a good Diſpoſition, we often overſee a latent Enemy in the Conſtitution, which defeats all our Hopes, and renders our Endeavours altogether ineffectual. Indulgence has done with ſome, and ruin'd many more. Severity has hurt a few, and ſav'd a great many. A Youth of a quick and generous Nature, will exert himſelf ſometimes out of a Principle of Emulation, but always to avoid Shame; whilſt the ſlow and unactive, muſt be forc'd along, and are only to be mov'd by the fear of Puniſhment. It is the Misfortune of a dull Mind, to think itſelf in a tolerable State, as long as it ſees others in an equal Condition; whilſt an active, noble Spirit, is never contented, but when it is Superior: But as there are Millions, who are neither ſtupid

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nor enterprizing, and the Objects ſo numerous which miſlead them, 'tis certainly moſt adviſable to reſtrain Youth by a Strictneſs of Diſcipline.

The famous Dr. *Buſby*, was an eminent Inſtance of the Succeſs of Severity in his Method of Education. This magiſterial Hero ſtruck Terror into his Pupils, inſomuch, that I have heard a Gentleman ſay, that was once a Scholar of his, that he could never behold him afterwards, without ſome Apprehenſions of Danger. But, however, this Method of his, made many a great Man. I queſtion whether the ſame Sort of Diſcipline would not be as effectual for the other Sex, and do better than the Methods now taken. *Buſby*'s Diſciples very often went into the conjugal Bed, with the freſh Scars of their Maſter's Chaſtiſement; and what great Harm would there be (I pray) if Miſs was to be whip'd too, the Day before ſhe was married. This Method might prevent many Irregularities in their Behaviour, that a too early Confidence in themſelves, often leads them into. There is one Unhappineſs which attends Youth, and is incurable by any Body but the Patient, that is, the Wrong they often do themſelves, by imitating the Manners of their Parents. Hence comes thoſe hereditary Vices and Follies, which the Poſſeſſor never ſees, but in other People. It requires the utmoſt good Senſe and Reflection, to diſingage one's ſelf from this Incumbrance. The beſt Thing we can do on this Occaſion, is, when we obſerve any Thing amiſs in another, to think impartially, whether or no we are not affected with this Blemiſh ourſelves. Another Misfortune, which attends Children, is, when Parents (as it were) compel them to follow their Example

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in their Behaviour and Way of living, by giving 'em no Opportunity of ſeeing any Thing elſe. I ſhall take the Liberty of relating an Inſtance of this Sort, in the following Part of this Paper.

There is a Neighbour of mine in the County of *Suffolk*, a Gentleman of a very good Eſtate and Family, who has for a long Time, quitted the Society of Men, for that of his Horſes; Whether or no, he believes theſe to be the moſt reaſonable Animals of the two, or that by a peculiar Strain of Humanity, he thinks himſelf obliged to ſhew this Kindneſs and Familiarity to his Fellow-Creatures; or by ſome Baſhfulneſs in his Nature, which makes him not think himſelf Company for Men, I know not; but certain it is, he lives with that Equality in this cabbaline Family, that the only Difference obſerv'd amongſt them, is, when they go Abroad, and then 'tis but reaſonable he ſhould have the uppermoſt Place. A Tenant of his, to whom he ſold one of his lame Companions, (for indeed, in many Things this Gentleman is very Particular, and as other People pay for the Cure of a Patient, he contrives the Matter ſo as always to receive ſomething for the Diſtemper.) This Fellow, I ſay, ſwears, there has been for a long Time, a criminal Converſation between him and his Mare *Boniface*, notwithſtanding he endeavours to diſguiſe the Matter by his frequent Viſits to a Tanner's Wife in the Neighbourhood; though, I give no Manner of Credit to this Part of his Story; but it ſeems, there was a Time in this Gentleman's Life, when (he ſays) he was coupled like other Folks in Wedlock, with a very diſcreet Lady, by whom he had ſeveral Children: But as he had obſerv'd,

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the Youth of this Age generally miſcarry under the Care of Schoolmaſters and Tutors, he was reſolv'd, to take upon himſelf the Education of his eldeſt Son; therefore, he led him from his Houſe, and gave him an Apartment in the Stable, in Order to initiate him in all the Myſteries of the Equeſtrian Science. His firſt Employment was, the Care of his Horſes Heels, and as he grew up, he had the Management of the other Parts of his Body; 'till at laſt, he was mounted into the Saddle. The quick Progreſs this Youth made in the cabbaline Science, determin'd his Father to carry him to *New-Market*, in Order to compleat his Studies. This is the firſt Court of Judicature for Horſes in *England*. *Here* the Laws about their Precedency, are ſettled twice a Year; and *here* their Maſters pay them the Compliment, of letting them decide the Right of their Properties; which they do (not like common Lawyers) but with all the Speed imaginable. This young Gentleman, has been very obſervant of every Thing that paſs'd there, which could conduce to the Improvement of his Underſtanding; inſomuch, that he has the Reputation (though very young) of a complete Jockey; and his Father is ſo very well ſatisfied, that he is often heard to ſay, if he had a hundred Children, he'd breed 'em all up like *Humphry*.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 4. *Monday*, *March* 21, 1726.

I Was reading, t'other Night, the Abbot *de Vertot*'s Hiſtory of the Revolutions in the *Roman* Republick, and when I came to that Part of it, where he ſays, " The Senate was then divided betwixt *Pompey* " and *Craſſus*, Enemies and Rivals in the Go- " vernment; and how *Cæſar* united himſelf ſome- " times with one, ſometimes with the other, and, " as it were, borrow'd their Credit from Time " to Time, with a Deſign to make Uſe of it for " arriving the eaſier to the Dignity of Conſul " and Command of the Armies, which he at- " tained, and in the End overthrew thoſe very " Men, who had the moſt contributed to his " Advancement;" at this Place being over-power'd with Sleep, I fell back in my Chair, and as it happens very often for People to dream of thoſe Things, which have a near Relation to what their waking Thoughts were moſt immediately intent upon: Methought, I was tranſported into the moſt delightful Country in the World. I found myſelf upon the Top of a Hill, where I beheld all the Vallies interſpers'd

with Towns and Cities crowded with People; the Fields were bounded with thick Inclosures, and sheltered from the Weather with tall Oaks and Elms, which afforded the most agreeable Shade; here the Meadows smil'd with an everlasting Verdure; there the yellow Harvests rewarded the Labourer's Toil, and with full Crops enrich'd the Husbandman. In some Places, I could discover innumerable Heads of Cattle; and all the Hills look'd white, with Flocks of Sheep; through this whole Country I discerned a large River, which, by its several Windings, seem'd to multiply in its Progress, 'till it lost itself in the Ocean; this Water not only enliven'd the Beauty of the Prospect, but seem'd to be of the greatest Use to the Inhabitants; for I could observe, it was almost cover'd with Boats and Barges, which were laden with all Manner of rich Merchandizes, that were brought from innumerable floating Castles (as they appear'd to me at a Distance) which determin'd my View. After I continued some Time to indulge myself with these delightful Scenes, methought I was carried to a Palace adorn'd with all the Rarities, that the nicest Hands of Art could furnish from every Part of the World; the Structure indeed was old, and seem'd to be design'd rather for Conveniency than Magnificence; but the Furniture was admirable. In one Apartment, the Silks of *Italy* blaz'd with a superior Brightness, whilst the richest Velvets glow'd in another. I saw in one Place, a Suit of Hangings, of the finest Embroidery of Sprigs and Flowers, that even rival'd Nature itself; here the Tapistry seem'd to smile, as if it were animated and conscious of the Honours it enjoy'd; and there the Looms

of

of *China* and *Perſia*, gave us a Profuſion of exotick Beauties. The Walls of the Galleries were covered with the Paintings of the greateſt Maſters, which look'd as if they were alive, and projected out of the Canvas, while the Statues breath'd, as it were, and ſurpriz'd the Beholder. At the farther End of the Palace, I was conducted to a large Apartment by a Gentleman of a lively Aſpect and a middle Age, in a Purple Robe, who told me, that the Perſon I ſaw there upon the Throne, was the Prince of Liberty. I ſtaid ſome Time to entertain my Eyes with this Object, which, methought, was the moſt agreeable, I ever had beheld. There was that Mixture of Majeſty and Benevolence in his Countenance, and one might obſerve that Reſolution and Juſtice in his Expreſſions, as ſhould make all good Men both love and fear him. Whilſt I ſeem'd fix'd in my Admiration, my Conductor pull'd me by the Sleeve, and led me into the Antichamber, where he ſhew'd me ſeveral Perſons, who were making their Court to him. Obſerve, ſays he, that elderly Gentleman in a plain Red Coat, his Name is *Valour*; he is the eldeſt Officer the Prince has; he is a faithful and a valiant Captain, entirely Maſter of Military Affairs; but at preſent his Intereſt declines, and his Counſels are unregarded. The next to him, in a plain black Suit, is *Frugality*; this Perſon was once Comptroller of the Finances; he was a vigilant and careful Servant; his Mind was wholly intent on the Welfare of the Nation; he made every Man ſenſible, that it was his Intereſt to be active in the Service of his Country, and this he managed without any great Expence, for he was very ſparing in his Liberalities, judging very rightly, that an up-

right Adminiſtration can never want Aſſiſtance, and that no Government can ſubſiſt long, which is only ſupported by Bribes and Penſions. That weather-beaten Perſon you ſee in the lac'd Suit (ſays he) is *Trade*, you may know him by the Richneſs of his Habit; and that plump Gentleman next him, his conſtant Companion, *Plenty*: Theſe are the old Miniſters, and have been a long Time of the Cabinet-Council; but there has been great Intereſt made againſt them. See that Man there, with a haughty Air, an Impatience and Jealouſy in his Looks, his Name is *Ambition*; he preſſes very hard, to have the Adminiſtration in his Hands; they ſay, he is aſſiſted with two powerful Friends, you may ſee them keep cloſe to him; that on the Right Hand, is called *Luxury*; that on his left, *Effeminacy*. 'Tis not to be imagin'd, what a Party they have rais'd for him; all that Multitude of People, you ſee follow them, cringing and fawning, are their Creatures; they have an Intereſt almoſt in every Houſe, and have introduced a thouſand Faſhions and Extravagancies, which are look'd upon to be ſo neceſſary now, that No-body dares venture to be without them, for fear of being thought ill-bred, or ridiculous. Theſe ſupernumerary Follies, put Millions upon any Means to acquire them. Juſtice, Honour, Virtue, the Publick Good, every Thing is given for theſe Baubles. A Man is not aſham'd to appear with a Fool's Coat on, becauſe it is the Faſhion; nor afraid of being diſhoneſt, becauſe there are ſo many to keep him in Countenance. Obſerve, ſays he, that Gentleman at the lower End of the Room; ſee with what a noble Diſdain, he beholds that fawning Multitude, his Name is *Integrity*.

This

This is one of the braveſt Spirits in the Empire: As he is a Perſon of great Eloquence, which he employs in the Senate, in the Service of his Country, he is much regarded, and ſpeaks with the greateſt Authority, having always the Laws and Conſtitution of the Empire to ſupport his Argument; and what adds a greater Weight, he is known to be above Temptation: His Fidelity and Love to the Emperor, has made him ſometimes be ſuſpected of Irreſolution: But thoſe, who will give themſelves the Trouble of Reflection, will eaſily ſee, that his Behaviour is conſiſtent with itſelf, as he is careful of the Honour of his Prince, and of doing Juſtice to Mankind. When my Conductor had ſaid this, he threw off his Robe, and I beheld on his left Side a Star, of prodigious Brightneſs, which illuminated in ſuch a Manner, that methought I could ſee into his Heart, and read diſtinctly in the moſt legible Characters, theſe Words, *Royalty*, *Liberty*, *Conſtancy*. So ſurprizing an Object ſtruck me with the profoundeſt Reſpect and Veneration; and as I kneel'd down to kiſs his Hand, I waken'd.

I juſt now receiv'd two Letters, one from a Friend, as he calls himſelf, adviſing me to have nothing to do with Politicks; the other from an humble Servant and Well-wiſher, telling me my Political Paper will be acceptable. The firſt, I ſhall inſert, becauſe, I believe it will pleaſe him who writ it; beſides, I think myſelf under the greateſt Obligations to any Perſon, who calls himſelf my Friend, being a Character, that deſerves the utmoſt Reſpect and Conſideration; as for the other Gentleman, I hope this Paper will give him Satisfaction.

Honeſt Countryman,

" SEEING thou haſt ſet thyſelf up, as it " were, on high, to be a Light to enlighten " the Underſtanding of the genteel Part of the " World, by ſhewing them the good Effects " proceeding from the Practice of Virtue, and " making manifeſt unto them the bad Effects " attending the Practice of Vice, which as I " apprehend from thy Papers already publiſh'd, " is the principal End of thy Deſign; I ear- " neſtly recommend unto thee, to beware of " one Thing in thy future Diſcourſes; yea, " as a Friend, I caution thee, againſt medling " with Politicks; for there is a long Train of " evil Conſequences following them: They are " in the Nature of Vipers, who, if thou offer'dſt " to come too near them, will dart their vene- " mous Tongues at thee; yea verily, they will " ſting thee vehemently, as one of thy cotem- " porary Writers can teſtify by Experience. " There is a large Field beſides, [yea, it is a " very large one] in which thou mayſt rove " at large, and exerciſe thy Pen, as well for the " Delight as the Inſtruction of thy Readers—— " Be wiſe in following the Advice of

" Thy Cordial Friend,

EBENEZER TRUSTY.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 5. *Friday March* 25, 1726.

MY Printer complains to me of the ill Taſte of the Town, and tells me, that notwithſtanding he has for the Benefit of the Publick, printed but one hundred thouſand of theſe Papers, yet he finds a great many of them lie upon his Hands: He further informs me, that ſeveral Tradeſmen have been with him, who hearing, that he has a great Stock by him, have offer'd him two Pence a Quire to line Trunks and Paſteboard-Boxes; but that he has put them off, 'till he hears from me, whether or no I can make it worth any Body's while to purchaſe them, at the current Rates; which he believes might ſtill be done, if I cou'd put any more Wit in them. In Anſwer to this truſty Friend, I have promis'd to every Body, that reads theſe Lucubrations, to pay them down in Wit or Money the Price of the Time they ſpend in this Employment: But as I ſet no Value upon more than twelve Hours a Day, and will allow but ſix Pounds *per Diem* to every Individual, for his Loſs of Time (let him take it as he will) I find, that this Paper requiring but two Minutes to read it over, will intitle the Reader to no more than two Pence.

This

This being a very exact Calculation, I have already agreed with Sir *G*——— To have these Papers circulated in the —— So that whatever Person is not satisfied with their Currency, may receive the full Value in Money: And that People may be thoroughly convinc'd of this Truth, I shall make over to him twelve Shillings a Year for ever, for his Security, which is the Value of a Prize I intend to purchase in the next Lottery. Tho' this may be reckon'd a hard Bargain to me, considering, that he can be nothing out of Pocket, yet I chuse to do it to remove all manner of Scruples.

Any Person, who has a Mind to have his Money again, by carrying the following Note shall receive full Satisfaction.

At Sight pay the Bearer two Pence, in Exchange for this Lucubration, being Part of the Circulation Money agreed on between us, and place it to Account as per Advice from

Yours,

£00:00:02 *The* COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

To the Right Worshipful Sir *G*—— at his House in *Watlington-Street.*

A Man who ventures into the World with a publick Character, is sure to have a great many Observers, who are like so many Enemies, watching all Opportunity of doing him Mischief. Being very sensible of this, I have sent my Emissaries into all parts of the Town, to observe the different Sentiments of People, upon the *Country Gentleman*'s first Appearance in publick. One of 'em told me he went into *Tom's* Coffee-House in *Covent-Garden*, where he found the Company had been divided in their Opinions upon this

this Subject. Some ſaid, *The Author was a diſcontented Poet, who had been refus'd by the Managers of* Drury-Lane *Play-Houſe.* Others affirm'd, *that it was a Beau of the laſt Century, who had been put out of Countenance by our modern Pretenders to Dreſs. Will. Wiſeman* ſaid, *he was ſure he was a* Middleſex *Juſtice, and one of the Society for the Reformation of Manners:* But *Demoſthenes* put an End to this Debate, and in a long Argument prov'd to the Company, *that the Author muſt be a grumbling Whig; for,* ſays he, *Gentlemen you may obſerve in the Concluſion of his firſt Paper, he declares when he found the Bill of Rights ſtand in Force, and the Act of Succeſſion unrepeal'd, he wonders to ſee ſuch a Difference now amongſt thoſe, who formerly had the ſame Way of thinking. No-body but a grumbling Whig can ſay this, and you may depend upon it, he'll write againſt us.* The Company, who always pay a great Deference to this Gentleman, were intirely ſatisfied with this Determination. From hence we went to St. *James*'s Coffee-Houſe, and advancing to the politick Table, he heard Sir *Peter Quid-nunc* ſay, *I promiſe you, it will behove the Country Gentleman to be very cautious how he meddles in publick Matters in this critical Juncture. If I don't miſtake the Man* (ſays *Tom Weathercock*) *I warrant we ſhall ſee him taken up very ſoon. Ralph Supple* was going to ſay ſomething, but a Friend of his having Compaſſion on him, prevented it, *by aſking him for a Pinch of his beſt Barcelona*, which *Ralph* diſtributes to all Mankind, with an equal Liberality. While I was writing this Paper, I receiv'd ſeveral Letters by the Penny-poſt. I ſhall take the Liberty of tranſcribing two of them, as containing ſomething very particular.

Gray's

SIR, Gray's Inn.

I *Have read your Paper call'd the* Country Gentleman, *and commend your Design. I promise you all the Assistance I can give you, which is very considerable. I had a great Deal of Wit, before I lodg'd at that mercantile End of the Town, in* Moor-Fields; *that infected me with Dulness, tho' since I came here, I am somewhat recover'd. I have some Poems by me, which may be of Use to you, chiefly Epic, where instead of Kings and Princes, and the Revolutions of Empire, I chuse to treat of those Things, which have been of most Use to me in Life; preferring the Sentiments of Gratitude to the Sublimities of a Poet's Fancy; tho' I must tell you by the bye, my Constancy has cost me very dear; and I wou'd rather have chosen* Bourbon *for my Friend, than the* Spaniard. *I am,*

Sir, yours,

ADRIAN HAREBRAIN.

I must own myself oblig'd to Mr. *Harebrain*, for his Civility, and in return, assure him, in Order to compose his Mind, that neither *Bourbon* or the *Spaniard*, will be able to do him good, in the Way he thinks of, if I guess his Meaning.

SIR,

I *AM inform'd, you give yourself Air, write contre the French Fashion, and pretend ridicule their Dress; I must tell you, Sir, 'tis no polite, no just; beside, how you dare call Mr.* Toupet *amphibie Animal? I tell him of your Paper, he say you are an old Prigg, so besure you are, and never was Dress in your Life; if I hear more of you this Way, begarr I go to my Country, and bid your lourd Nation adieu*

LOUIS DOUBLURE.

By

By the Style and Pertneſs of this Epiſtle, I conceive it to be written by a *French* Taylor. This Letter calls upon me to take Notice, how far our young Gentry carry this Metamorphoſis of Dreſs. At preſent, the only viſible Emulation amongſt them is, who ſhall be moſt expenſively ridiculous. 'Tis an unaccountable Turn of Mind in a Man to wear a Habit, that makes him appear not to be of his own Sex. Honeſt *Tom Heartwell* told me, he ſaw a Couple of thoſe Things enter the Coffee-Houſe t'other Day; and not having been in *London* for ſome Years, he took 'em for a Brace of She-Players that had ſtole out of the Houſe, upon ſome Frolick in Men's Habits. A Friend of mine, who is very ſkilful in Aſtrology, aſſures me, that in a few Months there will be a total Transformation of the Sexes, and that it was but a Miſtake as to the Time, that it did not happen ſome Years ago. He pretends to prove this, by ſeveral probable Circumſtances; as firſt by the Men's Dreſs, which, as it is the Effect of the Imagination, ſhews, that their Inſide is already form'd, and altogether effeminate. The next Thing he obſerves is, the little Trip in their Gate, which indicates, that this Transformation is not to be all at once, but to proceed upwards by Degrees, as *Daphne*'s did, however unnaturally it may be repreſented in both the *Theatres*. I don't know what Credit to give to this Account, knowing my Friend to be ſometimes ludicrous; but I can't help believing the publick Report, that there have been ſeveral Miſtakes made lately; and that ſome of the moſt forward, have done the Offices of Women already. I muſt therefore adviſe my Country-Men to take Care, how they make their Settlements for the future, to prevent Law-

ſuits

ſuits; for when an Eſtate is ſettled upon the Heirs-Males of a Man begotten on ſuch a Woman, who brings forth a Son, who is afterwards chang'd into a Female, where is the Eſtate to go? This will be a diſputable Point; and conſidering, that all our Lawyers are hereafter to be made Women, I queſtion very much, whether it will ever be decided. I know, that many other Inconvenienies will ariſe from this Transformation; but as this immediately relates to Property, I thought it would be inexcuſable in me, not to give this early Notice.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 6. *Monday March* 28, 1726.

I Remember, my Friend, the Phyſician once told me, that in all his Practice he obſerv'd, that Fees were in no Caſe ſo liberally given, as by female Patients affected with the Small-pox. I am at a Loſs to know, to what to aſſign this extraordinary Liberality, unleſs it be, that they think, nothing is too much for him, who, they fondly believe, has their Beauty at that Time entirely in his Diſpoſal. And indeed it is not to be wonder'd at, that they value no Expence to preſerve that

that, which gives 'em ſo much Power and Eſteem in the World, and which when once gone, cannot be purchas'd back again with both the *Indies*.

St. *Evremont* writes, with an infinite Deal of Wit, upon the Pleaſure that Women take in their own Beauty. I can't do better on this Occaſion, than to give you his own Words; "There is nothing (ſays he) ſo natural to the "fair Sex, as to take a Pleaſure in their own Beau- "ty. They pleaſe themſelves, as much as it is "poſſible for others to pleaſe them; and are "the firſt that diſcover their own Charms, "and fall in Love with themſelves. As long "as a Woman is in full Poſſeſſion of her Beau- "ty no Misfortune can befall her, which ſhe "cannot in ſome Meaſure alleviate; but when "once that Bleſſing has left her, all the other "Advantages of Fortune will never be able to "give her any tolerable Satisfaction. Where- "ever ſhe goes, the Remembrance of what ſhe "has loſt, or the Conſideration of what ſhe has "at preſent, will give her a thouſand Inquie- "tudes. The laſt Tears which beautiful Eyes "reſerve, are ſpent in bewailing themſelves, "after they are effac'd out of all Hearts. The "only Perſon that ſtill laments a loſt Beauty, "is ſhe who was once the Poſſeſſor of it. Let "a fine Woman retire into what Place ſhe plea- "ſes, let her Condition be what it will, yet her "Charms are ſtill dear to her: They will be "dear to her even in the Time of Sickneſs; and "if her Sickneſs goes as far as Death, the laſt "Sigh that paſſes from her is more for "the Loſs of her Beauty, than for that of her "Life." But here methinks our Author has carried his Obſervation too far, and writes with more

more Satire, than is conſiſtent with the Character of ſo accompliſh'd a Gentleman.

I have often thought, that the Sentiment of Beauty is ſomething peculiar to human Nature, the reſt of the animal Creation ſeem to know nothing of that Pleaſure, which ſprings from the various Combinations of Colour and Symmetry; they are mov'd by a different Principle, and make no Preference or Choice; theſe viſionary Tranſports are what we call by the Name of Love, and are diſtinguiſh'd from brutal Inclinations by their Duration. The Eyes ſtill behold the beauteous Object with Delight, and admit of no Satiety: Hence proceeds that Deſire of pleaſing, that Reſignation of our Will, that Profuſion of all Things agreeable to her we love: And for this very Reaſon it is, that Women employ all their Care, look every Way, and omit nothing to heighten their Beauty, that they may not loſe their Dominion. Art ſupplies the Defects of Nature; and a thouſand Trifles are invented, either to hide a Deformity, or divert the Eyes from it; whilſt others are contriv'd to reſemble Beauty, or give a Luſtre to it. Invention is every Day on the Rack to furniſh ſome new Materials to revive their decaying Charms, in Hopes of keeping up their Authority with their old Acquaitance, or impoſing upon new.

M. *R.* the Painter, told me, that when my Lady *Varniſh* ſate to him for her Picture, *he begg'd ſhe would give him Leave to ſend for ſome of her own Lake, or elſe it would be impoſſible for him to hit the Likeneſs of her Ladyſhip's Cheeks:* This Faſhion of Face-Painting is become ſo univerſal, that not only ſuperannuated Matrons, but even their Daughters make a common Prac-

tice

tice of tinging their Cheeks with an unnatural Vermilion: Nay, *Tintorella* herſelf is ſuſpected to make Uſe of this Art. Is it poſſible! that lovely Maid! to whom Nature has been ſo abundantly laviſh, that ſhe ſeems to have treaſur'd up in her, all her Stock of Sweets, and to have left all the reſt of her Children deſtitute: That ſhe who ſtands alone in the Perfection of Beauty, triumphant, inimitable, ador'd, becauſe, perhaps a ſleepleſs Night, has made her look paler than uſual, muſt ſhe ſubmit that divine Face to be touch'd up by the rough Hand of Art? Conſider, lovely Maid, that by this means, you haſten the Ruin of that vaſt Stock of Beauty, which has hitherto ſupported your extended Dominion. Conſider the Malice of evil Tongues, the Envy of your own Sex, who if they can maintain this Accuſation, will not ſcruple to ſay, that all the reſt is Impoſture; and that you ſhine with a borrow'd Light; and even among the Men, you will find but few, that have Vanity enough to attempt the Support of your Power: For as there are not many of us that will ſerve without the Hopes of a Reward, unleſs compelled, conſider, Madam, if the Title of your Beauty is ſuſpected, where will be your Authority? Where your Power of compelling? Thoſe vaſt Numbers, who admir'd and deſpair'd, will be glad of this Excuſe for a Revolt; and as for the ſmall Tribe of confident Pretenders, which are left, they will be ſo far from giving you any real Aſſiſtance, that they will be a Scandal to your Beauty, and the Ruin of your Glory.

I had a Letter ſent me juſt now, without a Name, which I ſhall inſert, and beg the World to judge, whether or no, I deſerve this Treatment.

SIR,

SIR,

MY Maid brought me a Thread-Paper Yesterday; and happening to see Man *writ in large Characters in one of the Folds, I had the Curiosity to open it, and found it to be The* COUNTRY GENTLEMAN. *Good Master* Goose-cap, *how long have you set up for a School-master? You may be as free with your own Sex as you please; but I hope you won't have the Assurance to prescribe Rules for ours. What, tho' your great Loggerhead could not take any Thing that was not driven into it at t'other End, yet I'd have you to know, that though I shan't be Fifteen till to Morrow, I am as fit for any Thing as your Mother; whip me.——Marry, I shall never love whipping again. Go whip your own freckled Daughters in the Country; and see what you can make of 'em in the Dairy; but don't pretend to lay down your musty Rules for Town-Breeding; for let me tell you old Dad, we know what's what in this Place, sooner than you imagine. Adieu*

STIFF RUMP.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 7. *Friday, April* 1, 1726.

—— *Quid non Martalia cogis*
Auri ſacra fames.

PLUTARCH, in the Life of *Cæſar*, ſays, 'That after he had conquer'd 'the *Nervi*, who were a People that 'inhabited that Part of *Flanders*, 'which is now call'd *Hainault*, he took up his 'Winter-Quarters by the *Po*, where, after he 'had ſettled the Affairs of *Gaul*, he reſided, in 'Order to the forming his Deſigns at *Rome*. 'All, who were Candidates for Offices, us'd 'his Aſſiſtance, and were ſupply'd with Money 'from him to corrupt the People, and buy 'their Votes; in Return of which, when they 'were choſe, they did all Things to advance 'his Power: But what is more conſiderable, 'the moſt eminent and powerful Men in *Rome*, 'in great Numbers, made their Court to him at '*Lucca*, as *Pompey* and *Craſſus*, *Appius*, the 'Prætor of *Sardinia*, and *Nepos* the Proconſul 'of *Spain*; ſo that there were upon the Place, 'at one Time, more than 200 Senators, who 'held a Council. There it was agreed, that

'*Pompey* and *Craſſus* ſhould be Conſuls again, 'for the following Year; that *Cæſar*, ſhould 'have a freſh Supply of Money, and that his 'Command ſhould be renew'd to him for five 'Years more. It ſeem'd very extravagant to 'all thinking Men, that thoſe very Perſons, 'who had receiv'd ſo much Money from *Cæſar*, 'ſhould perſwade the Senate to grant him 'more, as if he wanted, tho' indeed, they did 'not ſo much perſuade as compel the Senate.'

This ambitious Man knew very well, that Luxury and Effeminacy, Vices always attending Affluence, had taken Poſſeſſion of the Hearts of his Countrymen; to ſupport theſe, they would ſell their Liberties, to any great Man, who would either give them Money, or ſome profitable Employment. He had ſeen before, the Succeſs of *Sylla*'s Conduct this Way. *Sylla* indeed, had a Nobleneſs of Aſpect, and Eaſineſs of Manners; he was naturally inſinuating and perſuaſive, and even denied with ſo good a Grace, that it rather look'd like a Suſpenſion of his Favour, than a total Ceſſation of Commerce. This ingaging Addreſs, with his great Liberalities to ſome, and his Readineſs to ſupply almoſt every one, who made their Application to him for Money, had, as it were, bought the Inclinations of his Countrymen; ſo that they could deny him nothing. *Cæſar* therefore, was immenſely laviſh in his Youth, and had run in Debt 1300 Talents, before he had any publick Employment. This Proſuſion was the Foundation of his Greatneſs; and at laſt, the nobleſt Families of *Rome* became his Penſioners. The Quality and Number of the Receivers gave a Sanction to the Bribery, and the ancient Laws of the Empire were abrogated.

and

and new ones forced on the People to ſerve his infamous Purpoſes. There was nothing doing any where, that he did not influence; and he carried what Points he pleaſed in the Debates of the Senate, ſo great was the Number of his Creatures, whom he ſupply'd with Money, either to gratify their Luxury, or raiſe themſelves to conſiderable Poſts in the Commonwealth. He bought off *Emilius Paulus*, and *Curio* (Men of Underſtanding, and Skilful in the Laws,) with large Penſions; ſo that he found nothing impracticable for him, either amongſt the People, or in the Senate. This gave him ſuch a Confidence, that he thought he never could aſk too much. The firſt Thing he agreed to take, after his Conſulate, was the Government of *Gallia Ciſalpina*; but when he had obtained this, he got *Illyrium* and *Gallia Tranſalpina* to be added to it. In ſhort, what could be denied to a Man, who laviſhed the Publick Money among ſuch, whoſe Intereſt it was, to vote him any Thing to enable him to continue his Profuſion to them? What availed the Remonſtrances of *Catulus Luctatius?* Who concluded his Charge of Ambition againſt *Cæſar*, with this remarkable Saying, *Cæſar no longer undermines the Government, but openly plants his Batteries againſt it:* Even the Integrity of *Cato*, was unregarded, who would have had him delivered up to his Enemies, to atone for the Violation of the publick Faith: But the Bribes he beſtowed among the Senators, changed thoſe Complaints into Praiſes. His Robberies of the Publick were conſtrued as political Actions; and great Vices, and raſh Enterprizes were looked upon as great Virtues, becauſe they proved ſucceſsful, and no doubt there were very many, that even juſtified his ſeizing

that Part of the publick Treaſure, which was guarded by the ſtrongeſt Laws, and looked upon as the only Means to preſerve the Credit and Liberty of the Empire. When Men have loſt the Senſe of Shame, what are they not capable of doing? Juſtice, Honour, and Virtue are laid aſide, and Partiality, Baſeneſs, and Slavery, are the Companions of a corrupted Mind; the Man, who takes a Bribe to do any Thing againſt his Conſcience, at the ſame Time, confeſſes himſelf a Villain to him that bribed him. He puts on the Badge of Slavery, and owns himſelf willing to go into any Meaſures, provided he can get his Price. *Cæſar* had never arrived to that Heighth of Grandeur, but would have fallen an early Sacrifice to that immoderate Ambition, which at laſt ſtretched itſelf over every Part of the Government, had it not been for the ſhameful Corruption of his fellow Citizens.

If you would ſee this Man in a true Light, behold him impatient of the Laws, ſeducing Mankind from all Notions of Virtue and Honour, by the powerful Temptations of Bribes and Titles, inſatiable in accumulating Riches, and waſting the Publick to carry on the moſt pernicious Deſigns, proſtituting the Honour of the Government by the Breach of the Publick Faith, and as if he were conſcious of his Errors, determined to ſupport himſelf by an unwarrantable Military Force. If theſe are Talents to be wiſhed for? If this is a Greatneſs to be admir'd? It muſt be confeſs'd however, he paid dear for his Ambition, and that the Largeneſs of the Prize, was proportioned to the Greatneſs of his Crimes.

P. S. My

P. S. My Friend *Ebenezer Truſty*'s ſecond Letter is received; and I own myſelf very much obliged to him for his Promiſe, to give me, from Time to Time, an Account of ſuch Enormities as may be a proper Subject for his Paper. I have alſo receiv'd a Letter from Mr. *Half-wit*, lamenting his unhappy Fate, that he is in Love with a Pigmy; my intimate and dear Friend *Will Teſty*, who deſires to be Superviſor of my Correſpondencies, bids me tell him, *That he has Nothing to complain of, for the Leſs he has of a Woman the better.*

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 8. *Monday, April* 4, 1726.

I Took ſhelter the other Day from the Rain, in a bye Coffee-houſe, near *Hatton-Garden*, and as I was reading over one of the News-Papers, I caſt my Eye on a Man with his Back to the Fire, of a very extraordinary Appearance; he had on a laced Coat, which was let down a great Way below his Knees; his Arms and Hands were ſo entirely covered by his Sleeves, that at firſt Sight, one would have thought they had been ſhot off; his Buttons were as big as Tennis-Balls, his Hat ſo large, that it look'd

like an Umbrella reverſed; the Hairs of his Perùke hung on each Side his Head in parallel Lines, which were collected at the Bottom in two large Knots, and reſembled a Pair of Scales; his Neckcloth was very full of Linnen, which being twiſted together like a Cable-Rope, was faſten'd at both Ends in a Button-Hole; his Sword ſeem'd to be of an Age with the reſt of his Furniture, and guarded his Knees, or rather his Pockets in a Horizontal Line; in ſhort, juſt ſuch a Figure as I remember to have been in Faſhion, in King *William*'s Time.

As ſoon as the Shower was over, he called for a Diſh of Coffee; the Boy told him, *he'd make a freſh Pot in a Minute*; but the Gentleman anſwer'd, in a ſurly Tone, *You never have any Thing that is good*, and went away. When he was gone, I aſk'd the Man of the Houſe, who this old Perſon might be? He told me, *That he had been formerly Valet de Chambre to the old Duke of* Beaumond, *who left him all his Wardrobe, when he died, which was ſo very conſiderable, that he had never Occaſion to buy him any Cloaths ſince*; *They look upon him in the Neighbourhood*, ſays he, *as a rich Man*; *he has neither Chick nor Child*; *he got it all by ſaving*; *he comes here often, but ſeldom ſpends a Farthing*; with ſeveral other Particularities, which I have forgot.

When I came Home, I could not get this odd Figure out of my Head, nor help reflecting on the Fantaſticalneſs of Men in reſpect to their Dreſs. I ſhall not go back to thoſe ſeveral Faſhions, that make our Forefathers appear to us now in their Portraits, like ſo many Scaramouches; but obſerve, upon the Habit beforemention in Relation to the Cloaths we now wear.

wear. The Dreſs I have deſcribed, made its firſt Appearance in *Flanders*, in the Time of the War, when the Armies ſtaid late in the Field, and was deſign'd as a convenient and ample Covering from the Injuries of the Weather; the Buttons no doubt, were of a double Uſe, not only to bind the Coat ſurer, but alſo in Caſe of want of Ammunition, to ſerve inſtead of Ball for their ſmall Cannon and Field Pieces. The large Neckcloth too, had ſeveral Employments, and perform'd the Office of either Towel or Table-cloth, during the Operations of the Campaign; and I have been told, that the hanging the Sword ſo low, was a political Contrivance of one of the general Officers, that he might have a Pretence of ſtooping, and by this Means avoid the Reflection of thoſe, who were us'd to obſerve him in the ſame bending Poſture, at the going off of a Muſquet.

It was about the Spring of the Year, before this Habit was imported into *England*; about *Midſummer*, the whole Nation was down to the Knuckles and Ankles in Serge, or Broad-Cloth, and a Man was out of Faſhion, if he did not hang out as much Muſlin under his Chin as a Linen Draper;—but this Extravagance could not laſt long, and we refin'd in our Dreſs in Proportion as our Contempt for the *French* increas'd; our frequent Victories made us ſet a Value upon ourſelves, and we ſcorn'd to imitate what we every Day trampled under our Feet. Almoſt during the whole Reign of Queen *Anne*, nothing cou'd be more decent and proper than the *Engliſh* Dreſs; both Sexes excell'd in an elegant Simplicity, and had it not been for that fatal Emulation of the Women, who were reſolv'd to enlarge their Bottoms at Home, in

Proportion to our extending our Territories Abroad, there had hardly been any Blemiſh upon their Conduct in this Particular, all that Reign. I muſt own, however, the full Bottom Peruke was an unneceſſary Ornament; this was much worn at that Time, and had very bad Effects; the Brain being over-heated with ſo great a Redundancy of Hair, precipitated their Judgment, and hinder'd their Reflection, (which is the Effect of a cool Thought:) By which Means, Party-Rage was carried to a great Height, and indeed, became inſupportable; and I am almoſt confirm'd in this Opinion, becauſe, ſince the full Bottom has been cut into a ſmall Tye, a natural Bob, and a Night-Cap, we hear very little of Party-Differences. As for the *Toupet* and *Queüe*, the Proprietors having no Thought at all, they cannot be ſaid to be of either Side. Our preſent Garb ſeems to be form'd in direct Oppoſition to that, I have already mentioned; the Sleeves are ſhrunk to the very Shoulders, and ſeem to reſemble a Pair of Wings. The Pockets are mounted upon the Waſte; the Buttons are reduced to the Standard of Hazel-Nuts; though they have made pretty good Terms for themſelves, and keep up in Number, what they want in Bulk; the Cravat is turned into a Collar, and the Sword has changed his Poſt of Duty, from the Knee to the Hip. It is not an eaſy Matter to gueſs what Turn it will next take; but if there is any ſuch Thing as Proportion, or Juſtice obſerved amongſt Men, the Head ought to be adorned with a Pinner, when the Body is dreſs'd out in Silks.

I have received an Abundance of Letters from young Ladies, complaining of my Advice for

for the Education of Youth in my third Paper; as the following Epiſtle is the beſt ſpelt, I ſhall, give it Room in this Place.

SIR,

THE unlucky Advice in your third Paper, of correcting young Damſels, as Buſby *did his Scholars, has to my great Grief ſo prevail'd with my* Mamma, *that Yeſterday for an innocent harmleſs Lye, I was forc'd to undergo this Penance; as I am a young Virgin of fifteen, judge how I was mortify'd at ſuch a Treatment, therefore, if your are not ſome ill-natur'd old Fellow, and have any Humanity, pray uſe all your Endeavours in your next Paper, that this barbarous Cuſtom may not come into Faſhion, or elſe you will incur the Diſpleaſure of all the pretty Sufferers, as you have done of*

A. M.

March 23d, 1725 6.

If this Letter had come earlier to my Hands, I would have anſwer'd it ſooner; but, I hope, it is Time enough to ſave pretty Miſs from another whipping, which will certainly befall her, if ſhe does not follow my Advice, which is, not to think any Lye innocent; the beſt Thing that can be ſaid of a Lye, is, that it was told only to cover a Fault: Now, though the Offence may be harmleſs, yet the Lye, which is the Excuſe, will always be criminal; therefore, I muſt inſiſt upon my Advice, to her *Mamma*, to continue this Diſcipline; and the next Time you tell a Lye, tho' it ſhould be when you are one and twenty, and your Lover have the Marriage Licence in his Pocket, I hope, ſhe will jerk you heartily.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 9. *Friday*, *April* 8, 1726.

THIS Day being ſet apart for the Commemoration of the moſt ſolemn Event that ever befel Mankind; a Day, wherein the God of Nature condeſcended to put on Mortality, and ſuffer an ignominious Death for the Sins of the World; this Conſideration naturally leads the Mind into the moſt ſerious Thought, and raiſes in us the higheſt Admiration of that inimitable Goodneſs, which manifeſted itſelf to us, in a Purpoſe much more conſiderable than even that of our Creation; for, the greateſt Advantage promiſed to Man, if he had continued in a State of Innocence, ſeems to be eternal Life in this World, the 17th Verſe of 2d Chapter of *Geneſis*, *But of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou ſhalt not eat of it; for in the Day that thou eateſt thereof, thou ſhalt ſurely die.* This Text is a Negative Proof, that had he not eaten of it, he would have continued immortal: But the Advantages that ariſe to him, from the Propitiatory Sacrifice of this Day, is no leſs than a Reſurrection to eternal Life with God himſelf, the Author of all Things both in Heaven and Earth. He dies indeed, but as

St.

St. *Paul* ſays, firſt Epiſtle to the *Corinthians*, Chap. xv. Ver. 51, 52, 53. *Behold, I ſhew you a Myſtery, we ſhall not all ſleep, but we ſhall all be changed; in a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye, at the laſt Trumpet; (for the Trumpet ſhall ſound) and the Dead ſhall be rais'd incorruptible, and we ſhall be changed; for this Corruptible muſt put on Incorruption, and this Mortal muſt put on Immortality:* And in the firſt Epiſtle to the *Theſſalonians*, Chap. iv. Ver. 16, 17. *For the Lord himſelf ſhall deſcend from Heaven with a Shout, with the Voice of the Arch-Angel, and with the Trumpet of God, and the Dead in Chriſt ſhall riſe firſt. Then we, which are alive and remain, ſhall be caught up together with them in the Clouds, to meet the Lord in the Air, and ſo ſhall we ever be with the Lord.* Good God! What a Change is here? What had it avail'd a Man to have been Lord of this Globe? To have had Millions of Slaves bending to his Power? To have enjoyed all the Delicacies of Nature, with the moſt exquiſite Reliſh? To have had his Knowledge enlarg'd by the Experience of Ages? Yet how ſhort would have been his Knowledge? How taſteleſs his Pleaſure, and how impotent his Power, in Compariſon of that, which he will have, when he is tranſported to the Manſions of Bliſs, and becomes a Companion of the Almighty? As far as Infinite is beyond the Space of a Field, or a Garden, ſo wide the Difference will be; for, there can be no doubt, but that the ſame Goodneſs, which gives Eternity of Exiſtence with him, will alſo equally enlarge the Faculties of the Soul. Then this corporeal Cloud ſhall be diſpell'd from the Mind, and we ſhall ſee all Things with an intuitive Knowledge. What an amazing Thought

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it is to behold the Secrets of even that Part of Nature (which is visible to us) unfolded! to look into her most hidden Recesses, and discern as it were with one View, her whole Order, Connexion, and Motion! But alas! how little is this in Comparison of what may yet lie undiscovered to us; and fills up those immense Spaces which weary the Mind to think of, and to which it can set no Limits! What a new Scene of Wonders will open to us when we come to gaze on the Works of the Creation, illuminated by the Original Source of Light itself? How much shall we be ashamed of our former Conjectures? With what Contempt shall we look back on that Knowledge, which made us believe ourselves superior to the rest of our Fellow-Creatures? 'Tis then alone, that we shall be able to reconcile to our Understandings, how Almighty Power could out of Nothing produce innumerable Worlds, and by the same Power can reduce them back again to their Original. Then will the Difficulties be clear'd up, that arise about the Prescience of God, and Free-Will of Man; and then will be unfolded the great Mystery of this Day, that God should send his only Son to expiate for the Sins of this World; that he should suffer him to undergo the Shame of Ridicule, the Pain of Scouring, and the Anguish of the Cross; and what is very remarkable, that he should be more sensible of all these Calamities than a mortal Man. How much must the Saviour of the World have felt when he cried out, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* It looks as if his Tortures had been increased by the Excellency of his Nature, and that his Pangs were of a different Sort than what we can imagine, and peculiar to the Person who suffered

ſuffered them. It might poſſibly be from this Way of thinking, that I once heard an excellent Divine, after he had diſplay'd the bloody Enſigns of the Croſs, break out into this Expreſſion: behold (ſays he) *Omnipotence diſabled, Omniſcience baffled, eternal Wiſdom ſilenced.* Some People may perhaps find Fault with the Boldneſs of the Metaphor, and the Inconſiſtency of the Thought; but it may be ſome Excuſe for him, when we conſider, it was God himſelf that ſuffered, the Author of Life, who was then expiring; at leaſt, we may be ſure, that there are no Words that can poſſibly explain a Thing to us, of which we cannot have any perfect Idea, but though we are too ſhort ſighted to look into the Councils of the Almighty, and the Line of our Reaſon, can never fathom the Depths of Eternity; yet we can never enough adore the Goodneſs of God, who by this great Example has taught us, Humility and Friendſhip. The King of Kings has condeſcended to aſſociate himſelf with his Subjects; the Creator choſe to be the Companion of his Creatures, that he might convince them of his Divinity by his Wiſdom, and give them an undeniable Proof of his Omnipotence by the Greatneſs of his Miracles. This laſt Conſideration deſtroys all the Arguments of Infidelity, the Divine Power having ſubmitted itſelf even to give a ſenſible Evidence, St. *John*, xx. 27. *Then ſaith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy Finger, and behold my Hands, and reach hither thy Hand, and thruſt it into my Side, and be not faithleſs, but believing.* Had he again commanded the Waters to ſpread over the Face of the Earth; had he thunder'd from on high; had he ſhaken the Foundations

of

of this World, theſe Inſtances of his Might, have already been known and look'd upon by ſome, as the ordinary Effects of Nature. God therefore, manifeſted himſelf in the Fleſh; diveſted all the Enſigns of Majeſty, and became a meer Man; but ſtill retain'd his divine Attributes. He heal'd the Sick, and rais'd the Dead, that he might give Mankind the ſtrongeſt Proofs of the Divinity of his Origin, and leave him without Excuſe if he believed not: But as his Humility is without Example, ſo is his Love to Mankind. Behold the Son of God, quitting the Manſions of eternal Bliſs. Behold him as it were ſuſpending his Omnipotence, and ſuffering himſelf to be born of a Woman, and attending the ordinary Forms of Education! Behold him in the Hands of cruel Men, buffeted, ſcorn'd, ſcourg'd, and laſt of all, ſeeing him hanging on the Croſs, bleeding for the Sins of Men, who otherwiſe muſt have endur'd a long Eternity of Woe, in a bottomleſs Gulph of Fire, where nothing is heard but weeping, wailing, and gnaſhing of Teeth: A Thought ſo dreadful, is ſufficient to make Nature ſtart back, and caſt about for any Means to preſerve us from ſo uncomfortable a Proſpect. Behold the Lord himſelf ready, and ſtretching out his Hands to ſave you, and aſking no more, but that you will believe in him, and keep his Commandments; one of which is in the xvth Chapter of the Goſpel of St. *John*, Verſe 12. *Love one another, as I have loved you*; which afterwards he explains in the moſt emphatical Terms in the next Verſe, *Greater Love hath no Man than this, that a Man lay down his Life for his Friend.*

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 10. *Monday, April* 11, 1726.

I WAS at Court about ten Days ago, where I saw a Youth, who is one of the greatest Curiosities that has appear'd in the World since the Time of *Adam:* This wild Creature is (as they Conjecture) about twelve or thirteen Years of Age; and the Accounts they give us of his Behaviour, sufficiently prove, that he was entirely unacquainted with his own Species; he was found naked in the Woods of *Hamelen* in *Germany*, running upon all Four, and sometimes climbing up the Trees like a Squirrel; but which Way he came there, or how he supported himself in that uncomfortable Solitude, is, at present, what takes up the Conversation of the Learned. I overheard a Company of ingenious Men talking on this Subject, in a Corner of the Room, with great Wisdom and fine Observation: One of 'em argued, *That he had read the Opinions of some Philosophers who maintain'd, that Mankind originally sprung up out of the Ground like Corn, or Asparagus; and though the Species might since have been propagated by Generation, yet he could not*

not be convinced, that the Earth had loſt this prolifick Faculty; but, ſays he, *This Creature, here before our Eyes, may be a Proof of the Contrary:* Another imagined, that it might be a *Mandrake, which either by a peculiar Conjunction of ſome of the Planets, or by ſome extraordinary Operation of the Sun upon the Earth, might be ripened into a Human Being:* A Third affirm'd, *That he muſt have been born of a Woman, though perhaps he might have been nouriſhed by ſome wild Beaſt, as* Romulus *and* Remus *were formerly by a Wolf.* Each of theſe Gentlemen maintain'd his Argument with that Solidity and Strength of Reaſon, that it was a hard Matter to determine, which was neareſt the Truth: After they had debated about his Origin for ſome Time; one of the Company advanced a ſtrange Propoſition in Relation to this wild Gentleman's Eſtate, which was founded upon Mr. *Hobs*'s Notion of the Equality of every Man's Rights to the Benefits of Nature, *ſince this Man*, ſays he, *ſeems to be the immediate Off-ſpring of the Earth, there can be no Doubt, but that he ought to have an equal Portion of his Mother's Inheritance, and it is moſt reaſonable, that he ſhould make his Claim in that Part of the World, where he firſt ſprung up: Now, becauſe it will take up ſo much Time before the* Imperial *Diet can meet, in Order to adjuſt his Proportion, and ſettle the Difference, which muſt ariſe on his Demands, I think all the World ought to contribute to his Maintenance, becauſe ſtrictly ſpeaking, there is not a Man in the Univerſe poſſeſs'd of an Acre of Ground, that can poſitively ſay, this Youth has not a Title to ſome Part of it.* Here this Gentleman was interrupted by another Perſon (who ſaid,) *That his Allegation could not be ſupported by Law, for*

that

that his Pretenſions would be ſet aſide by the Statutes of Limitation. The Serioufneſs of this Man's Countenance, and the grave Manner of his ſpeaking, ſet all the Company a Laughing, which putting him in ſome Confuſion, he retir'd and hid himſelf in the Crowd. Preſently after, ſome Body ſtarted a Queſtion, *That, ſuppoſing this Son of I don't know what, ſhould have riſen out of the Ground like a Muſhroom, what might be the firſt Thing, which invited his Appetite?* One of 'em ſaid, *the Herbage of the Field, as we ſee in other Animals:* Another imgain'd, *that like a Snipe or Woodcock, he muſt have ſuck'd the Juices of the Earth, which was to him like his Mother's Milk, and nouriſh'd him when he was under Ground.* The next Subject they went upon, was the Quality of this extraordinary Perſon; and what Rank he ſhould hold in the World. One Gentleman advanc'd, *That there could be but one Place above him, and that belonged to him, who was Heir in a right Line from* Adam, *his elder Brother; and he could not but be of an Opinion, that till this Perſon was found out, he ſhould have the firſt Place in all Manner of Company, except where there was a crown'd Head.* Sir *John Novel* replied to this, with ſome Concern, and ſaid, *That he believed he knew what belong'd to good Manners as well as any Body; but for his Part, he could not think of giving Place to a Man, who came into the World like a Cucumber.* A *Welch* Gentleman, that ſtood near him, told 'em, *That he was very eaſy as to that Point; for that he had plain Proof, whenever he was call'd upon, that his Family deſcended in a right Line from* Adam, *his elder Brother.* There were ſeveral Liſt'ners, that carried this Part of the Diſcourſe amongſt

the Ladies, whom, in a little Time, I obſerv'd to be in a great Fluſter, and to look with an Air of Contempt upon this wild Man of Quality. I underſtood afterwards, this aroſe from the malicious Inſinuation of a young Spark, who had put it about, that Mr. *Wildman*'s Lady was coming into the Room, and would take Place of every Body there. In a Minute, nothing was heard, but the Crackling of Fans, and ruſtling of Petticoats, occaſioned by all the Ladies preſſing violently to the upper Part of the Chamber; this made ſo great a Noiſe, that every Body run in, to ſee what was the Matter, and broke up the Company. When the Tumult was a little compos'd, a Gentleman approach'd me, and after having ſurvey'd me ſome Time, through a Glaſs, he aſk'd me, *What Language I thought would be moſt proper to teach this Savage.* I told him, *I had heard the* Hebrew *was the Mother Tongue, and in all Probability would be the eaſieſt for his Pronunciation.* He anſwer'd, *That was true, but it could be of no Uſe to him, except in a* Jewiſh *Synagogue. No* ſays he) *he had better learn* Engliſh. *I am thinking, when he is Maſter of our Language, and can explain himſelf, what wonderful Diſcoveries he will be able to make in the vegetable and mineral World. Imagine him no bigger than an Acorn, expanding himſelf in the Bowels of the Earth, and looking into all the* Arcana *of thoſe ſubterraneous Beings, there he diſcovered how the analagous Juices are ſuck'd in by the Roots of one Plant, whilſt the heterogeneous ſlide away, and are received by others, to whom they are adapted by Nature, for Nouriſhment; there he found out, how thoſe minute Particles aſſemble, that compoſe Iron, Lead, and Gold,*

Gold, and how thoſe ſhining Materials are collected, which diſtinguiſh themſelves by an inimitable Luſtre, and blaze in the Ears of fine Ladies, and the Diadems of Princes; there he ſaw how the Vapours of Water are alembick'd by ſubterraneous Fires, to the Top of the higheſt Mountains, and condenſing there, fall down again in Streams and Rivulets. Of what prodigious Uſe will this Knowledge be in Phyſick! when he comes to let us know the Qualities of thoſe ſeveral Herbs and Plants, we have now ſo little Acquaintance with, when he inſtructs us in the Operation of Minerals, whether by the Infuſion of Liquor, or by Pulveriſation, Calcination, or by Combination with other medicinal Bodies? Then Sir, ſaid I, *you ſuppoſe him in a Capacity of walking up and down through all the Parts of the Earth, as freely as if he were above Ground, and judging as well of Things, when he was but a Month in Embryo, as one of our Fleſh-born Fellows here, can do at thirty Years old? Why not?* (reply'd he haſtily) *can any Man prove the Contrary? Who the Devil ſhould hinder him?* He would have gone on in this extravagant Manner, if we had not been interrupted by the breaking up of the Court which gave me an Opportunity of ſeparating myſelf from this learned Lunatick.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 11. *Friday, April* 15, 1726.

THE more a Man looks into the Works of Nature, the more the Desire of Knowledge increases, and every new Object gives Matter for Curiosity and Admiration. When we consider those Things, which are in a manner familiar to us, their Contexture, Shape, Colour, Organs of Vegetation; Sensation, Motion and Thought, and after so long an Acquaintance know so little of them, what Hopes have we of ever attaining a Knowledge of that vast Variety of Beings which blaze in the Heavens, and are divided from us by an Immensity of Space? When the Mind stretches beyond all visible Objects, and considers that there may yet be innumerable Orbs in those trackless Regions of *Æther*, which like so many Suns, may warm and influence Millions of others in some Measure resembling our Earth, and produce an infinite Number of Plants and Animals, of a quite different Species, than any we ever saw or can imagine, it strikes us with a pleasing Astonishment, and at the same Time raises in us the greatest Curiosity to know, what Sort of Creatures

tures those may be, who inhabit those remote Regions.

'Tis certain, that all the Accounts we have had of any Communication between us and them hitherto, are entirely fabulous; and that Journey of *Astolfo* to the *Moon*, is nothing but a *Chimera* of *Arioſto*: But however, as nobody knows what may happen, when we conſider what great Improvements have been made in the Mathematicks within a Century, the Ingenuity of Men may find out an Engine one Time or other, which may tranſport us to thoſe diſtant Worlds, and conſidering, that it is not much above two hundred and thirty five thouſand Miles from us to the Moon, I don't think it impracticable, very ſoon. Whenever theſe Machines are made, I believe there are very few, who can bear the Expence of ſo long a Journey, but what will have Curioſity enough to go there. How neceſſary then, will it be to form ſome *Idea* of the People who inhabit there, and have been ſo long Strangers to us, and as it were to familiarize our ſelves to Objects, that they may not ſeem to ſurprize us, and make our Behaviour appear to them aukward and ridiculous. The Way to be ſet right in this Enquiry, is to have Recourſe to the Philoſophers, who by long Study in the Works of Nature, and by often peeping through their Teleſcopes into theſe remote Orbs, make probable Conjectures of the Conſtitutions of their Inhabitants, from whence we can, as well as they gueſs ſomething at their Manners: 'Tis a Maxim amongſt theſe old Gentlemen, that the nearer any Body is to the Center, it is the more denſe or heavy; that is, the Matter it conſiſts of is leſs porous; or in other Words, it has a greater Quantity of *homogeneous* Matter in a ſmall Cir-

cumference. Now, ſince they have brought undeniable Proof of the Sun's being in the Center of the Planets, the nearer or remoter they are to it, the cloſer or more ſolid the Bodies of thoſe Planets muſt be, conſequently *Mercury* which is not much above twenty Millions of Miles from the *Sun*, is compos'd of a Matter as ſolid, at leaſt, as our Braſs, and for what I know, it may come from hence; that what we call a *Mercurial Fellow* has generally a brazen Face; we may then conclude the Inhabitants of this Place to be of a quite different Sort, than what they are with us; and as this Planet is twelve Times leſs, than the Earth, we may reaſonably ſuppoſe the People are ſo too, in Proportion, perhaps, not much bigger than our large jointed Babies: Their being ſo near the *Sun* muſt make their Complexions too very different from ours, and therefore to be-ſure the Women of this Country wou'd take it ill, if you ſhould tell them their Faces were fair, or their Skins were ſoft. I muſt adviſe my Country-Men to be very cautious in their Gallantry with theſe Ladies; for, beſides the Danger they may riſque in provoking any of theſe brazen-fiſted Gentry, a Man ought to conſider, that an eager Kiſs of one of theſe fond Puppets may knock his Teeth down his Throat, and that he may as well have his Fingers in a Vice as in the Hands of one of theſe amorous Damſels; and indeed, I don't ſee what Uſe they can be to us at all, unleſs it be in the Capacity of Tongs or Nut-crackers. There is another Thing very remarkable amongſt them, that as their Year is but a Quarter as long as ours, ſo their Day of Courſe muſt be very ſhort, which makes them do every Thing with an incredible Swiftneſs. Without Doubt their Language is entirely compos'd of *Monoſyllables*, or rather Words of one Letter, this helps

helps them to ſpeak ſo faſt, that it wou'd be impoſſible even for a Shop-keeper at *Billinſgate* to underſtand what they ſay. The next Planet that appears to us, is *Venus*; the Aſtronomers differ as to her Size; *Lanſbergin* ſays, ſhe is three Times and a half leſs than the Earth; but *Hygenius* is of an Opinion, that ſhe is ſomething bigger, which I wiſh may be true with all my Heart, ſince this is the Seat of Love, who deſerves an extended Empire. Her Diſtance from the *Sun* is not much above thirty nine Millions of Miles; which makes this Country exceeding warm, ſo to be ſure the Gentlemen and the Ladies underſtand one another preſently, and there is none of that ſtiff Coldneſs amongſt them, which our *Prudes* put on here, upon all Occaſions; and as their Year is ſhorter by above one Third, than ours, their Days in all Probability are ſo too, ſo that we may ſuppoſe they do every Thing very quick, and as it were with a Jerk. Notwithſtanding the Climate here is ſo hot, yet this Place abounds with ſo many Woods and Grotto's, and is refreſh'd with ſo many Springs, Rivulets, and perpetual Breezes, that it is the moſt delightful Situation of the Univerſe. Happy Region! bleſſed People! whom no Cares diſturb; but whoſe Life is one continued Series of Love and Pleaſure. I muſt deſire my female Readers not to deſpair of ſeeing thoſe delightful Manſions, ſince, when once they have got as far as the *Moon* they wont have much above fifteen Millions ſix hundred thouſand Miles to go, before they can reach them.

I ſhall ſay very little of our Neighbour the *Moon*, having not yet travel'd that Way; beſides I won't venture to expoſe myſelf to be contradicted by ſeveral of that Country, who at preſent inhabit amongſt us: But in all Probability the Difference is ſo ſmall, between our modern *Beaux* and

the Gentlemen of Fashion in this Planet, that they will hardly be look'd upon as Foreigners, when they come there; and as for our Ladies, there can be no Doubt, but that they will be entertain'd with all the Respect imaginable in a Court where Chastity is so much admir'd, and the Queen herself is the oldest Maid in the Universe,

I shall give an Account of the rest of the Planets in another Paper, being call'd upon to answer a Letter from a Lady, who subscribes her Name *Hen. Maria.*

MADAM,

HAD you given yourself the Trouble to read my second Paper, you wou'd not have mention'd the Request in the Contents of your Letter. The Character of a Country Esquire is so finely drawn in the Spectator, that I shou'd appear yet more contemptible than I do at present, shou'd I attempt to describe it. I shall therefore beseech you, Madam, to turn over those Volumes, where you will see more than you can expect from me, however favourably you may be dispos'd to think of me. You see, Madam, how disinterested I am, and sacrifice even myself for your Satisfaction; for if once you renew your Acquaintance with Sir Roger de Coverly, I am afraid you will never look upon me any more: But however, I shall so far comply with your Commands as to take an Opportunity of telling you one Time or other, how much this Character has suffer'd of late, by the aukward Behaviour of some of our Country Gentlemen in a Court Dress, and the Hypocrisy of others who pretend to be what they are not.

I am, Madam,

Your most obedient Servant,

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 12. *Monday*, *April* 18, 1726.

AS I pas'd by a House the other Day, a Fellow at the Door, put a Catalogue in my Hand, containing an Account of the Goods and Furniture of a Person of Quality deceas'd. It seems to be a confirm'd Custom now, that when any Person dies, all their Goods are afterwards sold by publick Auction: But there is something very remarkable in this Sort of Dealing; for I have known a House, almost empty in the Tenant's Life Time, at his Death, in an Instant (as it were) become adorn'd from Top to Bottom, with a treble Set of the finest Furniture imaginable. I know some People say, that this is a Contrivance of the Brokers, who take these Opportunities of selling their Wares to the best Advantage, by imposing upon the Ignorance of some, and setting others together by the Ears, by drawing them in, to bid upon one another, to an extravagant Price for a broken *Crock*, and an old fashion'd Piece of *China*.

I went

I went lately into one of these Places, and was surpriz'd to see so many Faces, that I had remembred before at the *Opera* and *Drawing-room*, all met together in the highest Expectation when the Auction wou'd begin. It was foolish enough to see in one Place a young Creature of fifteen, turning over the Beds and Carpets, Chairs and Tables, with an Air of Knowledge and Business, whilst another was deciding upon the Antiquity of a Medal, and the Origin of a Picture; a little Baggage, who knew me, gave me a Slap on the Back, and told me, *she'd be the Death of me, if I bid against her for the Telescope and Pair of Globes.* In an outward Room I observ'd some old Ladies very curious in separating some cream-colour'd Soop-Plates with white Edges; whilst others fix'd their Eyes upon an old white *Japan* Tea-Pot and Cups and Saucers. I saw a Lady who was lately married, colour at the Sight of some *Indian* Pagods, and I have been under a good Deal of Concern ever since, for fear this pretty Creature shou'd be brought to Bed of a *Chinese* Monster. I peep'd into a Closet, where I discover'd a Troop of Ladies, who had surrounded a Set of *Row-Waggons.* But I was driven from this Post by another Party, who were hawling along a great *Indian-Screen.* Stepping into a another Room to avoid the Crowd, I took Notice of an old Gentleman, who was measuring a very bad Picture. I ask'd the Auctioneer, who he was? He told me, *a very honest Gentleman, that delighted much in Painting, but that his Way was to Value a Picture by the Yard.*

Now he was call'd upon to begin the Auction, and after a short Harangue upon the Goodness and Scarcity of his Collection, the first Lot that was put up, was, *six old China Custard-Cups and Saucers.*

Here

Here the young ones bid upon one another so fast, that having a nice Ear, I cou'd distinguish at the same Time nineteen different Sounds out of so many different Pair of Chops. I must confess my Mouth water'd to be at them, but at last, after a long Contest, they were bought by Miss *Milksop* at an extravagant Price. The next Thing set up, was a large *Japan Punch Bowl* and *Cover:* This Piece of Stuff went heavily on for a good while, nobody bidding but the Veterans, who either out of Shame or Cunning wou'd not seem eager. The Auctioneer reproach'd them for their Delay, assuring them *it cou'd not be match'd in* England; this awaken'd them a little, for they knew him to be an honest Man, and may take his Word in any Thing. In a very short Time, all the Candidates were distanc'd but my Lady *Reel* and Mrs. *Guzzle:* The first a Lady of Quality and of an antient Family; the last a Citizen's Wife: This has a great Deal of Money; the other as much Pride: They were both very obstinate; one did not value the Money, the other cou'd not bear, that an Upstart shou'd beher Rival in any Thing. The Contention ran so high, that at last my Lady *Reel* reflecting, that if she went any further it wou'd be inconvenient to her, she left of bidding, and the Citizen carried it off in Triumph. The next Lot was *half a Dozen Pagods*; the Auctioneer had the Impudence to say, that *they were the houshold Gods of an Emperor of* China, *before the Conquest by the* Tartars, *and were not to be match'd for Antiquity or Curiosity in any Pagan Country in the Universe.* 'Tis almost incredible to think, how much Respect was paid to these *Indian-Deities.* I ask'd the young Lady, who bought 'em, if she did not *think it*

Idolatry

Idolatry to ſacrifice ſo much Money to a Heap of Earthen-Ware? Upon which, ſhe redden'd, and told me angrily, ſhe *did not ſuppoſe that I had even Religion enough for a Heathen.*

I can't help publickly admoniſhing my pretty Country-women, that they appear no where in ſo ridiculous a Light as in theſe Places. However People may juſtify their Extravagancies to their Vanity, yet nobody, ſure, wou'd deſire to proclaim their Want of Judgment. It's no manner of Excuſe to Lady *Harriot*—That Mrs. *Wrinkle* bid within a Shilling of her; but indeed it doubles the Reproach, when ſhe comes to conſider, that they who follows the Example of a Fool, confeſs themſelves in a lower State of Folly. It's a barbarous Impoſition upon theſe pretty innocent Creatures, that they are told, that in theſe Places they may be ſure to meet with Bargains; as if the People who ſet up their Goods in this manner, on Purpoſe to impoſe on their Underſtandings, ſhou'd let 'em have them for leſs than the Value, only becauſe they ſeem to have a Mind to 'em. Beſides, I don't know whether the very Motive of going to one of thoſe Auctions is not diſhoneſt. As theſe Sales generally conſiſt of the Commodities introduc'd by Tradeſmen, or are the poor remains of a Bankrupt-Eſtate, how can a Perſon of nice Honour reconcile it to himſelf, to think of buying any Thing of ſuch People for leſs than it is worth? and yet ſurely this is the Caſe of all thoſe, who go in Hopes of meeting with a Bargain. I have order'd my Emiſſaries for the future, to take Notice of what paſſes in theſe Houſes, and to ſend me the Names of all ſuch Ladies, who are obſerv'd to bid in a Paſſion, and for that Reaſon, at the End of the Conteſt

Conteſt are enter'd Fools upon Record; and I have reſolv'd to publiſh the Names of all ſuch, who perſiſt in theſe Practices upon the firſt Day of *April* next, in Hopes that their Friends will be allow'd to take Care of them, and lay out their Money to more Advantage; but with this Exception, that if any Lady will give it me under her Hand, that her Deſigns are charitable, ſhe may paſs unobſerv'd. I am very ſenſible this Project of mine, will draw upon me a great Deal of Malignity; but I have already ſtood the Shock of ſo much Malice and Ingratitude, that I am determined not to be mov'd by any Thing of that Sort for the future.

The following Letter requiring an immediate Anſwer, I muſt beg the Ladies Pardon for parting with them ſo abruptly; but I promiſe to make them amends upon another Occaſion.

SIR,

ACcording to my Agreement (the Subſtance whereof you mention in your fifth Paper) I have paid in Exchange, for that Day's Lucubrations, *the Sum of ten Pence, being two Pence* per *Piece for five of 'em which were brought by as many dull Fellows, who inſiſted upon it, that Money was better than Wit. I deſire, Sir, for the future, you wou'd write in ſuch a manner as may pleaſe every Body, as Meſſieurs* De Gols *and* Collyer *have done for many Years, whoſe Papers never were excepted againſt, by the greateſt Criticks of the Age. I have had ſome Hints, that your Enemies deſign to run upon me; but as in the firſt Place, I ſhall not think myſelf oblig'd by any Contract, I am like to loſe by, ſo, Sir, I expect you ſhou'd declare to the World, that ſhou'd they put this Deſign*

Deſign in Practice, I ſhall not have Caſh enough to anſwer their Demands, having laid out a prodigious Sum in other uſeful Manuſcripts. There is another Thing I muſt inſiſt upon, which is, that you do not write ſo clearly upon the Miſteries of our Profeſſion, nor diſcover to the World why 20l. *in* Lombard-ſtreet *will fetch* 20s. per Ann. *whereas in* Grub-ſtreet *they will give you for the ſame Sum but* 12s. per Ann. *I expect you will comply in every Circumſtance, and you will oblige*

Yours,

G——

SIR,

I *DID not expect to hear from you in this manner; for, taking you for the richeſt Man in* England, *when I made my Bargain with you, I concluded that you might be honeſt; but by ſeveral Expreſſions in your Letter, I have ſome Reaſon to doubt of your Principles. All I have to ſay to you, or any that belongs to you, is, that I inſiſt upon a Performance of Articles. As to the latter Part of your Letter, I ſhall take no other Notice of it, than that I promiſe you, I will trouble you with no more Schemes, ſince you have made ſo ill an Uſe of 'em: Theſe following Lines of* Hudibras *will explain the Matter better to you.*

The Knight who us'd by Tricks and Shifts
To edify by *Ralpho*'s Gifts,
But in Appearance cry'd 'em down,
That they might better ſeem his own:
All Plagiaries conſtant Courſe,
Of ſinking when they ſteal a Purſe.

You'll find out the meaning of this one Time or other, 'till then I remain

Yours, &c.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 13, *Friday*, *April* 22, 1726.

I Promis'd in another Paper to give my Readers an Account of the reſt of the Planets, and ſince I wrote that, I have receiv'd an Abundance of Letters, both from Men and Ladies preſſing me to make farther Diſcoveries of the Diſtances and Climates of thoſe remote Countries, the Manners of the Inhabitants, and the Methods I propoſe of travelling thither. I ſhall endeavour to gratify my Correſpondents in every Particular, of their Enquiry, having at the ſame Time, the greateſt Pleaſure myſelf in being employ'd in ſo uſeful an Undertaking.

I have already ſpoke of *Mercury*, *Venus* and the *Moon*. The next Planet which offers itſelf to us is *Mars*, who tho' at a very great Diſtance, yet that ſkilful Surveyor *Hygenius* has meaſur'd it, and ſays, that it is not much bigger than the *Earth*. The Days in this Country differ very little from ours, but their Years are twice as long, and conſequently their Seaſons are ſo too. This Region is above eighty two Millions of Miles from the *Sun*, which makes it very cold. The Inhabitants

Inhabitants are naturally quarrelſome, and ſometimes fight a whole Day together, only to keep themſelves warm. Their frequent Wars make them very expert in the military Science, and a Man may learn as much in a Month amongſt them, as he can do here in twenty Campaigns. It will be of the greateſt Importance to the Officers of the *Militia* to have an Intercourſe with theſe People, who cannot ſpare ſo much Time from their Shops and Victualling-Houſes, as is requir'd *here* to make a complete Soldier. Notwithſtanding the Gentlemen of this Country are ſo very fierce and cruel to one another; yet (they ſay) they are extremely complaiſant to the Ladies, and lay down all that they get by the Expence of their Blood and Hazard of their Lives, at the Feet of their Miſtreſſes; and I have been told, they are not very nice in this Particular, and that they very rarely except againſt a Woman, becauſe ſhe has been known to grant Favours to others.

Jupiter comes next to be conſidered: He is plac'd at a very great Diſtance from the *Sun*, above two hundred and eighty Millions of Miles, ſo that it is at leaſt five and twenty Times colder there than it is here. Their Days and Nights are above as ſhort again as ours, but their Years ten Times longer. They have four *Moons* to illuminate them at Night, which are every where near equal thro' all that great Region, which is at leaſt twenty five Times and half bigger than our *Earth*. The People of this Country (they ſay) are extreamly proud, regular, ceremonious, phlegmatick, and much inclin'd to Sleep. The Quality of the Soil (it being at ſo great a Diſtance from the *Sun*) is doubtleſs very rare and ſpongy; ſo that poſſibly the Fleſh of the Inhabitants may reſemble

reſemble our Cork, therefore I ſhall leave them to ſtop Bottles, and go to *Saturn*, who is the moſt remote of all the Planets, both from us and the *Sun*; and as his Year is above twenty nine Times as long as ours, their Seaſons muſt be above ſeven Years Duration, a Summer long enough (one wou'd think) to ripen any Fruit; but as they are above five hundred and thirteen Millions of Miles from the *Sun* one of our Sloes wou'd be look'd upon there, of more Value than the beſt *Muſcadine* Grape is here. Theſe People have no leſs than five *Moons* to wait upon them, which indeed is but very reaſonable, conſidering that towards both the Poles of this Country, they have by Turns fifteen Years Night, ſo that if one of our Children was ſent thither, and he was to live 'till he was threeſcore, he wou'd have it to ſay, when he came back, that tho' he was ſo old he had never ſeen but three Days in his Life. Doubtleſs, the Inhabitants of this Place, muſt be very old People, and very ſlow of Speech. I fancy every Word of theirs at leaſt a Quarter of an Hour long, and *Yocahuvaguama-orocoti*, which is an *Indian* Word for the Deity, would ſound there but like one of their Letters. What a happy Thing would it be for our Lawyers, if this Dialect could be introduc'd into our Courts of Judicature; and that all Pleadings, Bills, and Anſwers, *&c.* were to be writ in this Language?

For the Benefit of ſuch my Female Readers, who may have a Mind to travel into theſe remote Regions, I have affix'd a Table of the Diſtances of each Planet from the *Sun*, ſo that by Subſtracting the leſſer Numbers from the greater, any Lady may ſee how far that planet is from the *Earth*, to which ſhe may have a Mind to go.

I thought this abſolutely neceſſary, that they might know how to provide themſelves before Hand with Cloaths and Victuals for ſo long a Journey; becauſe I am credibly inform'd, there are not any Inns upon the Road, and it will be very difficult to get any freſh Proviſions, unleſs it ſhou'd happen, that they ſhou'd meet a *Comet* by the Way; but this ſeldom falls out, and there is no depending upon it.

Mercury,	is diſtant from the *Sun*,	20,952,000	Miles.
Venus,		39,096,000	
Earth,		54,000,000	
Mars,		82,242,000	
Jupiter,		280,582,000	
Saturn,		513,540,000	

For the Conveniency of thoſe Gentlemen and Ladies, who have a Deſire to viſit thoſe diſtant Countries, I have invented a Machine, call'd a *Planetary-Caravan*, which will hold ſix People with a great Deal of Eaſe, ſo that they may go with Pleaſure, as well as Safety. This Vehicle is ſo contriv'd, that by the Force of ſome inviſible Springs it may be mounted up in a Minute above the Clouds, and by the Management of ſome particular Stops, the Steers-man can make it hang in the Air like a Kite; and let it down again as ſoft as a Feather. This I thought proper to be known, that every Perſon might be made ſenſible of the Practicability of the Deſign, and ſee the Experiment made before they ſet out upon ſo long a Journey. This Machine at preſent, is to be ſeen at Mr. *Deard*'s Shop in *Fleet-ſtreet*, who has particular Orders not to ſhew it to any Body, but thoſe who deſign to travel this Way. I ſhall take an Opportunity, in another Paper, to give my

my Readers a farther Account of this Matter, being oblig'd at the Requeſt of a Lady to inſert a Letter of hers to me, which I can't refuſe for two Reaſons; firſt, becauſe I don't know how to diſobey the Commands of ſo fine a Woman; in the next Place, it is ſo uncommon for me to hear Praiſe, that I hope I ſhall be excus'd for indulging myſelf in this ſingle Inſtance.

SIR,

" I Was with ſome Ladies of my Acquaintance " t'other Day, where the Subject of our Diſ- " courſe was your Paper upon the wild Youth, " every one of us was prodigiouſly pleas'd with " it, and the more becauſe it had ſo much Learn- " ing in it. For you muſt know, Sir, we are " a Society of Female-philoſophers; but I can't " help telling you, that the Argument you have " brought for his Precedency, had like to have " produc'd ſome ill Conſequences; for I happen- " ing to ſay, that I wiſh'd I was married to that " dear uncommon Thing, all the reſt of 'em " were angry with me, and ſaid, that truly they " always thought me intolerably proud. It " ſeems the Meaning of this Reſentment was, " that every one of us had the ſame Wiſh, " which being very ſoon explain'd, has caus'd " a general Coldneſs and Indifferency to one a- " nother. In Order to make up this Affair a- " mongſt us, I propos'd to leave the Matter en- " tirely to your Deciſion; they all immediately " conſented to this Propoſition, ſo that your " Anſwer in this important Buſineſs is impati- " ently expected by,

Your Conſtant Reader, and Admirer,

E. WILDAIR.

As I have the greateſt Regard to the Commands of the fair Sex, ſo I ſhou'd think myſelf very happy, if I cou'd be any Way inſtrumental to their Good, and make up ſuch Differences, as may ariſe among them; but as this is a very delicate Affair; I muſt be excus'd from giving a poſitive Anſwer, unleſs they will accept of that, which *Paris* gave on the like Occaſion, which was, that it ſhou'd be beſtow'd on the Faireſt. This in all Probability, may put an End to the Contention at preſent, or at leaſt will divert it, for 'till you have agreed upon that Point among yourſelves, it will be impoſſible for me to ſay any more of this Matter.

As I ſhall never fail of taking Notice of ſuch People, who are juſtly the Objects of Cenſure, ſo it wou'd be inexcuſable in me, not to mention thoſe, who are really deſerving of Praiſe. The Pleaſure I had in reading over a Poem lately exhibited to the Publick, entitled *Winter*, calls upon me to ſpeak of the Author, with the utmoſt Regard and Admiration. Good Poets have, in all polite Nations, been treated with the greateſt Reſpect, therefore, that this ingenious Gentleman may have the Applauſe due to this Undertaking, I muſt deſire every Body to read it, not only for the Delight they will find in this agreeable Employment, but that the Honours which are due to him, may come rather from an univerſal Suffrage, than from the Pen of any particular Perſon.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No, 14, *Monday*, *April* 25, 1726.

Perdere multi ſciunt, donare neſciunt.

WHEN I go abroad (which is not very often) I hardly ever fail of making a Viſit to Mr. *Button*, at his Coffee-houſe in *Covent-Garden*. This induſtrious honeſt Man is remarkable for many good Qualities; but that which makes him moſt conſiderable, he is the greateſt Example in the World of conjugal Affection. It is a very great Pleaſure to me, now and then, to ſpend an Hour in Smoke and Converſation with this good Family; but as it is uncommon to enjoy any Satisfaction in this Life without ſome Allay, ſo in the midſt of our Mirth we were interrupted, the other Morning, with an Apparition the moſt ſurprizing that ever was heard of. It was about nine a Clock, when this *Spectre* came into the Room; he was of a prodigious Size, his Eyes very large, which he manag'd in ſuch a Manner, that they appear'd to look all round him: The Muſcles of his Face were ſo contracted, that it ſeem'd to be in a perpetual Grin, which open'd his

Mouth ſo wide, that you might diſcover ſeveral thouſands of Teeth. Over his Shoulders hung a black Robe, which was cover'd with Canvaſs-Bags, and on every Bag ſate a little Imp, which graſp'd it very cloſe; but ſtill thruſt up its Head to watch the Motions of the *Spectre's* Mouth: On his Right-Hand were a Couple of lean melancholy Ghoſts, who ſeem'd to bend under a Load of Caſkets and Bundles of Paper; but I cou'd obſerve 'em, now and then (when they thought the *Spectre* look'd another Way) to put their Hands in the Caſkets and ſlip 'em down again into their Pockets. I had forgot to tell you, that all theſe Bags were number'd, and of different Sizes; and I remark'd thoſe, that were uppermoſt or neareſt to his Head, were the largeſt. I caſt my Eye once or twice upon the Skirt of the Robe, and I cou'd plainly diſtinguiſh the Figures, three hundred and fifty. The *Spectre*, after a little Time, ſurvey'd every Part of the Rooms, and ſeeing nobody there, but us, he fell into a Fit of Laughter, ſo loud, that he almoſt ſtunn'd me: At the ſame Inſtant, all the reſt of the Goblins cackl'd, as if the Devil was in them; but that which diverted me moſt, was, a little Imp, who ſate on his Left-Shoulder, who ſtrove to open his Mouth as wide as the *Spectre*, which put his Jawbone out of its Place, and made him ever afterwards look like a Driveler. I don't know by what Accident it was, I happen'd to have a Statute-Book before me, and ſome of the Imps jump'd off their Places, and were going to tear out the Leaves; but the *Spectre* gave them a Sign, upon which, they ſhut the Book, and thruſt it under the Table. While I was looking with Aſtoniſhment at the Behaviour of theſe *Goblins*, the *Spectre* gave a loud Whiſtle, which made them

them disappear in a Moment, each carrying off his Bag in his Hand, and the *Spectre* remain'd, attended only by his two lean Servants, who laid down their Caskets and Bundles at his Feet. On a sudden, the Room became as dark as it were Midnight, but did not remain so long; for in a little Time, I perceiv'd a glimmering Light peep thro' a Dark-Lanthern, which discover'd to me at a Table, some Distance from me, these three Phantoms in close Consultation, with Abundance of square Bits of Paper before them. It was wonderful to behold, with what Ease they turned these Things into Gold, and then into Paper again; but there was one very large Bundle of this Sort of Stuff, which I perceiv'd embarrass'd them very much; for, tho' they cou'd with Ease transmute it into Gold, yet I cou'd discern by their counting it over very often, and their shaking their Heads, it did not come out as much as they expected. After some Debate upon this Matter, the *Spectre* whistled again, and in a Minute, all the *Goblins*, who departed just before, appear'd again: Then he took up his Wand and shew'd them how much that Heap wanted of its Quantity: This had so good an Effect, that presently every *Goblin* brought a Man with him, who put something into it. One haul'd in an Anchor; others threw in a Parcel of Biscuits; some dragg'd in a Cable-Rope; another drove in a Herd of Swine; but the most comical Figure of all, was a Fellow, who brought in a prodigious Number of Pewter-Pots. He seem'd to come dancing into the Room, with an Air of Mirth and Freedom; but looking down, I cou'd plainly discover, that he had a Rope ty'd about one of his Legs, and was pluck'd in, whether he wou'd or no. It was impossible to

look upon ſo ſtrange a Sight, without Aſtoniſhment, but what ſurpriz'd me more, was, to ſee this confus'd Heap, by one Touch of the *Spectre*'s Wand turn'd all into Paper: No ſooner was this done, but the *Goblins* clapp'd their Hands, and ſhew'd all the Expreſſions of Surprize and Joy imaginable; and in a Minute the whole Aſſembly diſappear'd. I was no ſooner freed from this frightful Apparition, but I was touch'd with the utmoſt Sorrow, to ſee my good Friend Mr. *Button* and his belov'd *Conſort* lie ſpeechleſs cloſe by me. Fear had ſo ſeiz'd this unhappy *Pair*, that it was with the greateſt Difficulty they were brought to their Senſes, and they were under an unſpeakable Concern, leaſt this Story ſhou'd take Air, and their Cuſtomers ſhou'd be afraid to come to the Houſe, when they hear it is haunted. However, at preſent, they are a little better ſatisfied, finding, that Men of Virtue, and Senſe, are intirely unconcern'd at theſe extraordinary *Phænomena*.

Any Perſon, who has a Mind to be inform'd farther of the Truth of this Story, by applying to Mr. *Button* or his Wife, at their Coffee Houſe, in *Ruſſel-Street*, *Covent-Garden*, may be thoroughly ſatisfied.

I don't find that my Admonitions to the fair Sex are like to produce the Effects I hop'd from them, as may be ſeen in the following Letters.

SIR,

I Read your laſt Paper but one, and am now convinced of the Folly of running about to theſe publick Sales to buy Bargains; but ſince you are ſtill pleas'd to let us go under certain Conditions, I am ſure I ſhall recommend myſelf to

to you, by telling you that from this Moment my Charity *is grown so extensive, that I intend never to miss one of them; for I am very well assur'd, that no Mortal would ever part with those beautiful Pieces of* China, *that was not in indigent Circumstances. I have now two Rooms almost full of them; indeed* Squire, *it would do your Heart good to see how they are dispos'd; the painted Machines rise one above another with so much Order, and so good a Taste, that you yourself must be pleas'd with them: I have lately seen, in one of these Places, three or four* Basons, *and a Dozen of* Cups *and* Saucers, *which with half a Score* Pagods, *that are to preside over them, will compleatly furnish the Corner of one of my Rooms, up to the* Ceiling. *I am confident I shall have Charity enough to buy them. I'm sure, I am very much obilg'd to you for giving me an Occasion of turning a* Folly *into a very great* Virtue, *and I shall always acknowledge it, as long as I am*

MARTHA CHINTZ.

SIR,

I Don't understand by what Authority you take upon you to censure our Proceedings at Auctions. 'Tis a pretty Business indeed, that we shan't lay out our Money as we please. I don't value of a Farthing, the printing my Name on the 1st *Day of* April, *as long as it will be registered in such good Company; besides, if the worst comes to the worst, I'm sure, I can always say, that I never let my Right Hand know what my left Hand does; so you may do as you please, if you won't admit of this Excuse from*

Yours,

DEBORAH SQUANDER.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 15. *Friday, April* 29, 1726.

Magna negotia adjutoribus egant. TACITUS.

THE Demand of this Paper growing every Day more and more, and my Correſpodents increaſing, I have determin'd with myſelf, in Order to facilitate my Buſineſs, and enlarge my Credit to appoint ſeveral Officers under me, to expedite all Matters, which may come within my Province, as intendant General of the Manners and Policy of *Great-Britain.* I therefore, think it neceſſary to ſet down the Titles of the Officers, who are to act, in the carrying on this great Work, that every Body may know, where to apply properly to have their Buſineſs done.

The firſt great Officer under me, is Superviſor of my Correſpondencies, which at preſent is managed by my dear Friend *Will Teſty*; and becauſe he is a little infirm, he employs two Secretaries, one for Foreign Affairs, who tranſlates the Letters that are ſent me in all Foreign Languages, except the ancient *Coptick* which I reſerve

reſerve for my own Explanation; the other has a great Deal of Buſineſs, and is continually employ'd in decyphering Epiſtles, that are falſe ſpelt, and ſeparating thoſe which are filled with private Scandal. It is this Gentleman's Province alſo, to regiſter the Names of ſuch of my Correſpondents, who at the Concluſion of their Work, deſire to ſhare the Glory with me, of having contributed to the Pleaſure and Inſtruction of my Countrymen.

There alſo belongs to this Office, a Recorder, who engroſſes their Writings, and keeps them ſeparately; ſo that by Application to him, any Perſon may be ſatisfied, who has the Curoſity, to know who was the Author of any particuliar Paper or Letter: He is conſtantly to be ſpoke with at *Button*'s Coffee-houſe, at the Hour of *Nine* in the Morning: His Fees are very ſmall, being order'd under Pain of Forfeiture of his Employment, never to take more than the Value of a Diſh of Bohea-Tea, and a Piece of Bread and Butter.

The next great Officer is call'd by the Name of *Projector*, or *Starter of Hints*. This is a very uſeful Man; it would be impoſſible for me to go on without him: This honeſt Gentleman does not know his own Value, nor conſider, that many of the greateſt Men in Fame, owe all their Glory to the Fertility of his Invention. As I have the utmoſt Reſpect for him, I uſe him with the greateſt Humanity, and have ſettled a very handſome Penſion upon him for his Life.

The next to him is a Parſon of great Learning: He is thoroughly acquainted with the *Chaldæan Crudition*; has traced the Progreſs of Philoſophy, long before the * *Æra* of *Nabonaſſar*,

* 3967 *Jul. Period.*

naſſar, and has cloſely follow'd it through *Arabia*, *Perſia*, *Egypt*, *Greece*, and the *Roman* Empire, till it ſettled at laſt amongſt us here in *England:* He has read over all the Fathers, and has all the *Claſſicks* by Heart: He is at preſent employ'd, in looking over ſome *Chineſe* Manuſcripts; ſo that, in a little Time, I hope by his Aſſiſtance, to furniſh my Readers with ſomething very curious, from thoſe diſtant Countries: He deſires to be call'd *Antiquity Profeſſor.*

The fourth great Officer is a *Poet:* He is rather a Man of Fancy than a Critick, and for this Reaſon I approv'd him, that he might with the more Eaſe admit of printing ſuch Pieces, which may be the Product of ſome growing Genius, where the Beauty of the Thought may atone for the Incorrectneſs of the Poem: He has got the largeſt Collection of Rhimes in *Europe*, and therefore is the fitteſt Perſon for any ſubminiſterial Epigrammatiſt, or Epic Poet, to apply to in *England:* He ſits conſtantly under the Clock at *White*'s Chocolate-Houſe, about Three in the Afternoon, where he receives Propoſals; and, if any Perſon is weary of the *Motto*, which is round any of the King's Coin, he will exchange another for it: He alſo diſpoſes of Poſies for Rings.

The other Offices are of an inferior Sort, but very neceſſary, *viz.*

Three Spies, whom I maintain in *Toupets* and *Clock-Stockings*, that No-body may ſuſpect 'em of any Deſign. Theſe Gentlemen go to all the Coffee-Houſes and Tea-Tables about the Town, and bring me daily Intelligence of what paſſes there.

I main-

I maintain alſo a Couple of Gentlemen with terrible Faces and moderate Capacities, who are determin'd to commend me in all publick Places, and ſilence all thoſe *Wholeſale Criticks*, and *Subaltern Witlings*, who take the Liberty to find Fault with theſe Lucubrations, and are only vex'd becauſe they happen to pleaſe.

I have alſo diſtributed ſeveral handſome Penſions to Ladies, who are to take all Opportunities of ſpeaking of my Generoſity in Aſſemblies, as well as in private Companies. They are alſo permitted to ſay, *that I have more Wit than any Man in* England.

I have ſtill reſerv'd ſome ſmall Employments to ſtop the Months of diſcontented Poets, or troubleſome Country Gentlemen, whoſe Talents were not ſuſpected, as alſo to reward repenting Enemies.

Thus having at an immenſe Expence, ſecur'd a Majority of Applauders, my Readers muſt not Wonder, if I now and then am dull. Security naturally makes Men careleſs, and Fulneſs of Power, very often inclines us to think contemptuouſly of thoſe, to whom we are every Day accountable. However, I ſhall take Care never to break in upon the ancient Laws of Morality and Decency, nor ſhall my Profuſion ever precipitate me to levy more upon my Readers, than Two-pence a Paper; and as this was the ancient and allow'd Subſidy, I perſuade myſelf No-body will grumble at it.

Thus have I laid before you a Scheme, which though ſome few may object againſt it, upon the Score of Bribery, yet is commendable in this, that it means no more, than to purchaſe your Attention to the Principles of Virtue and Honour,

nour, and awaken in you the Senſe of Liberty, and the Love of your Country.

By this Means, I hope, by Degrees, to revive that brave Spirit, for which my Countrymen have been ſo celebrated in paſt Ages; at leaſt, it cannot fail of producing this Effect, to let 'em ſee the Deformity of Corruption, and what a contemptible Character that Man bears, who can be bought off to ſerve the mean Purpoſes of a Superior.

This Subject leads me to do Juſtice to one of the greateſt *Engliſh* Poets of the former Age, as well as to one of the beſt Players of the Preſent; nor need I make any Apology to my Reader for putting him in Mind of this Paſſage, in that excellent Play of *Julius Cæſar*, in the Contention between *Brutus* and *Caſſius*, when that great Patron of Liberty breaks out into this fine Expreſſion

Remember March, *the* Ides *of* March *remember:*
Did not great Julius *bleed for Juſtice ſake?*
What Villain touch'd his Body, that did ſtab,
And not for Juſtice? What ſhall one of us
That ſtruck the foremoſt Man of all this World,
But for ſupporting Robbers: Shall we now
Contaminate our Fingers with baſe Bribes?
And ſell the mighty Space of our large Honours
For ſo much Traſh, as may be graſp'd thus?
I had rather be a Dog, and bait the Moon,
Than ſuch a Roman.

Here you ſee the Opinion of that great Man, in the Caſe of Corruption; but when this Sentiment is enliven'd by the Dignity of the Action, and the Force of the Expreſſion of that incomparable Tra-

Tragedian Mr. *Booth*, I have wonder'd to ſee many of the Audience ſit ſtill, and as unconcern'd as if they wore the Robes of Virtue and Innocence.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 16. *Monday, May* 2, 1726.

Quos Læſerunt, oderunt.

THE two firſt *Cares*, which ſollicit the Mind, are the Gratification of the Appetite, and the Thirſt of Power: The Firſt may be in a great Meaſure contented, but the Latter is inſatiable: It ſettles upon no Point, is not confin'd by any Bounds, but ſtretches beyond the Limits of even Thought itſelf. *Alexander* the Great, is ſaid to have wept, becauſe he had no more Worlds to conquer.

If we look into ourſelves, we ſhall ſee, that generally the Sources of Ambition are an Apprehenſion of Inſecurity, or a Principle of Pride: Either we don't think ourſelves ſafe, if Power is lodg'd in any Hands but our own, or by the Acquiſition of Domin on, we flatter ourſelves, that we are more than Men. Several Princes have carried this Thought a great Length;

Length: And *Caligula* the *Roman* Emperor, is ſaid to have built, and dedicated a Temple to his own Divinity, in which he had his Image done by the Life, and every Day cloath'd in the ſame Robes, that he himſelf wore.

This Extravagance does not at all appear ſurprizing to me; when I conſider a Man in ſuch a Station, ſurrounded with Slaves, where every Thing move by the Intimation of his Will, and all Mankind are preſſing to do him Honour: When every Action, every Expreſſion is applauded; I ſay, it is not at all wonderful, that ſuch a Perſon ſhould be as it were intoxicated with Praiſe, and believe himſelf ſomething more than common Man.

I ſaw an Inſtance of this Sort the other Day. I went to the Levy of a certain Man of Quality I came acquainted with, when I was Abroad, where after we had waited ſome Time, and entertain'd ourſelves with looking at his Furniture, which indeed was more expenſive, than well choſen, out comes my Lord, with a Smile, that confeſs'd the Superiority he had over us. As this great Perſon is a Man of Buſineſs, I obſerv'd the Countenances of thoſe, that applied themſelves to his Ear, as they came away, and could not forbear ſmiling to think, that by the Air of every Man's Face, I fancied I knew in what Degree of Succeſs his Affairs ſtood.

The Firſt that approach'd him, wore a *blue Ribband*, and in a careleſs Manner aſk'd for ſomething, which I ſaw was immediately comply'd with, by his going off with a Smile, which made Way for another in a *green one*: This Perſon was anxious and importunate, and ſeem'd to embarraſs our great Man; but at laſt

laſt, the Matter was compromis'd; and from a Countenance half pleas'd, I gueſs'd that half his Demands were granted. The next, that advanced, was the gayeſt Thing I ever ſaw in my Life: He was all cover'd with Powder and Embroidery, and bound about with a *red Ribband*: The great Man could not forbear ſmiling at this Gentleman, as being ſure his Demands could give him no Trouble. He had no ſooner ſpoke to him, but the Miniſter at firſt, look'd a little ſerious, which ſeem'd to ſignify, that nothing could be done yet; but clearing up of a Sudden, he recover'd the Knight out of his Conſternation, and invited him to Dinner: The Fourth that attack'd him, was in a threadbare red Coat, with a large gold Button, which I ſuppos'd was ſome Half-pay-Officer. I was near enough to over-hear the Words, *ſerv'd a great While, and* — *Hardſhips* — but he was anſwer'd with — *Some other Opportunity* — *already promis'd.* —There were many others, that look'd like *Mutes*, who, I ſuppoſe, came to ſhew this great Man, that they were alive, and ready to receive any Thing he would pleaſe to give them.

I could not help being very attentive to a Friend of mine, an ingenious Man, who ſeem'd to have ſome Diſcontent and Expectation in his Looks, and whiſper'd ſomething in this Lord's Ear, which was return'd with an Anſwer, that ſhew'd he was both diſappointed and confounded. I was very much concern'd, knowing him to be a reaſonable Man, and one, who would not aſk for any Thing he had not ſome juſt Pretenſions to. This made me reflect on the unhappy Condition of obſcure Merit, which ſeldom makes its Way, without the

Assistance of powerful Friends, or near Relations. 'Tis not enough to have deserv'd well, you must be in some Measure *necessary*, and either an Instrument of Power, or a Companion of their Pleasures, before they will think you considerable. This Neglect often irritates a Man of Genius; and may have been the Reason, that the Faults of Ministers have been generally worse represented than they really have deserv'd: But tho' it may be some Excuse for these great Men, that they often see thro' false Opticks, and take the Characters of particular People from their Creatures and Favourites, who are often Villains enough to misrepresent those, whose superior Merit may give 'em Jealousy; yet it certainly leaves *him* without Excuse, who neglects the Man, whose Counsels he follows; because by this Means he confesses his Deserts, and at the same Time takes upon himself the shameful Character of Ingratitude.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE famous *Planetarian Caravan*, which I spoke of before, being now entirely finish'd, and render'd convenient for all such Persons, who have any Desire to visit the *Moon*, *Venus*, *Mercury*, or any other of the Planets, is remov'd from Mr *Deard*'s Toy-shop in *Fleet-street*, to Mr. *Fawkes*'s great Booth in the *Tennis-Court*, near the *Hay-Market*; where Passengers may be accommodated with every Thing proper for so long a Journey. This Machine sets out from thence to the *Moon* very soon (only waiting at present to introduce the famous *Faustina*, who is to make her Entry into

into the *Opera*, at the Roof of the *Theatre*, over the Heads of all the reſt of the Singers.)

Any Perſon who intends to go this Way, or ſend any of their Friends, muſt ſend their Names before the firſt Day of *June* next, and likewiſe muſt depoſite their Earneſt-Money, in the Hands of the ſaid Mr. *Fawkes*, which being one Half of the Fare to the *Moon*, will come to a Hundred and Twenty-five Pounds. The *Machiniſt* contents himſelf with this moderate Price, (being only one Farthing a Mile) purely to ſerve his Country, and facilitate the Means of Tranſportation, having long obſerv'd, how uſeful this Project has been to the Inhabitants of this Iſland.

In the ſame Place alſo, may be ſeen the *Planetary Carricule*, which is a Vehicle prepar'd only for two Perſons, being a lighter Carriage, and very fit for a Couple of Lovers, who have a Mind to ſpend their Honey-Moon in *Venus*, and perhaps ſhould take a Fancy to come back again in Haſte.

N. B. *For the Encouragement of all ſuch Perſons, who go long Journies*, Fawkes *is order'd to take only one thouſand Pounds for a Million of Miles, which will be a ſaving of* 125 l. *for every Million of Miles, and render this Ætherial Navigation more eaſy to the Adventurers.*

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 17. *Friday, May* 6, 1726.

Emitur ſolar Virtute poteſtas. CLAUD.

MAN in the State of Nature, is little better than a Brute, and when he gives a Looſe to his Appetites and Paſſions, is yet more offenſive. Hence it is, that Laws have been made for the Preſervation of Society, and the Security to every Man of that Property, which he has acquired by his own Induſtry, or by the Gift of the Community: And the Names of thoſe great Men are yet look'd upon as ſacred in Hiſtory, who have left thoſe excellent Conſtitutions behind them, which long preſerv'd their ſeveral Countries in Security and Happineſs. But, though *Romulus*, *Numa*, *Licurgus*, *olon*, *Confucius*, &c. had, with the Knowledge and Obſervation of the Tranſactions of former Times, the greateſt Capacities of their own, yet Human Wiſdom is too weak and ſhort-ſighted to provide againſt all the Accidents of Futurity; the Wit of Man always

always contriving to elude the Graſp of the moſt binding Ordinances: Beſides that, the Multiplicity of Commerce, and the different Situation a Nation may be in, with Reſpect to her Neighbours, will always be a Reaſon of changing her old Laws, and creating new.

The Laws of *England* ſeem to owe their Origin to the preſent Exigencies of the Government, and have been made at different Times, by our Kings and People; for though the common Law has obtain'd its Force by immemorial Cuſtom or Uſage, yet there is no Doubt, but many of thoſe Things, which now obtain as *common Law*, had their Original by *Parliamentary Conſtitutions* made before Time of Memory, which by the *Statute* of *Weſtminſter*, L. Cap. 38. was ſettled and reduc'd to the *Coronation* of *Richard* the *Firſt*, 3d of *September*, 1189, and this Truth will eaſily appear, becauſe, that in many of thoſe old Acts of Parliament, which were made before Time of Memory, and are ſtill extant, we may find many of thoſe Laws enacted, which now obtain, meerly as *common Law*, and 'tis highly probable, that many more of our Cuſtomary Laws had their Foundation in Statutes, which are ſwallow'd up in the Gulph of Time.

The Laws of *Edward* the *Confeſſor*, were the moſt perfect, that had appear'd till his Time; and it is not to be wonder'd at, that the *Engliſh* were ſo zealous for their Preſervation; as being the great Rule and Standard of their *Rights and Liberties*. The Laws of *William* the *Firſt*, conſiſted chiefly in enforcing the Laws of *Edward* the *Confeſſor*, by his own Authority in Parliament, at the Requeſt of the *Engliſh*; ſome new ones, relating to *Militia Tenures*, and to

the publick Peace of the Kingdom, were added by himſelf in *Parliament*. The Laws of *Henry* the *Firſt*, which are enter'd in the red Book of the *Exchequer*, and thoſe of *Henry* the *Second*, call'd the *Conſtitutions* of *Clarendon*, were all, that were made till the Reign of *Richard* the *Firſt*; and are now, in a Manner, wholly obſolete, or (as it were) engrafted into the Body of the *common Law*. Nay, even in *Richard* the *Firſt's* Time, there is very little Evidence of any Acts of *Parliament* then made; nor have we any Records of Laws made in King *John*'s Reign, tho' the Conceſſions of the *Magna Charta*, and *Charta de Foreſta* were in a *parliamentary Manner*: Nor did theſe Charters obtain a full Settlement, 'till the Time of *Henry* the *Third*, when the Subſtance of them was enacted by a ſolemn Parliament, in the ninth Year of his Reign. Theſe Laws are ancient Monuments of the *Engliſh* Liberty, and were purchas'd by the People with the Price of their Blood, and Hazard of every Thing, that was dear to them. I ſhall make no Mention of the Laws, which have been made ſince, in Vindication of the ſame noble Principle, becauſe the Hiſtory of them is ſo recent; but I muſt obſerve, that whenever the Regal Power has ſtretch'd itſelf out, in the Support of a lawleſs Miniſter, or has aim'd at Innovations, in Order to aggrandize itſelf, it has hitherto been diſabled by the brave Oppoſition of the Commons; and while the Contention is for *Liberty* and *Property*, we are not to Wonder at the deſperate Efforts, they have made to ſecure themſelves of both: Conſidering too, that one Part of the Legiſlature is choſen out of their own Body, we may be the leſs ſurpriz'd at their Succeſs.

The

The Commons of *England*, are the *Barriers* of the *Engliſh* Liberty ; and it is amazing, that in the ſeveral Attempts, that have been made by ambitious Miniſters, in former Ages, they never aim'd at beſieging this great *Bulwark*, by bribing a Majority. *Sylla* and *Cæſar* have put this in Practice, in a more popular Aſſembly ; and the celebrated Virtue of the *Romans*, has yielded to the Temptation of Money. If this ever has been attempted amongſt us, the Want of Succeſs has made even the Deſign to be loſt in Hiſtory. How glorious muſt the Character of our Countrymen be in future Times ? How much Superior will this *Iſland* be in Fame to *Rome* itſelf ? The Empire of publick Virtues ! The Pride of Ages ! She, at laſt was purchas'd by a Fellow-Citizen, and all her boaſted Liberty was ſwallow'd up in abſolute Power : But *England*, invincible in her Freedom, has withſtood the Shocks of lawleſs Ambition, and all the cunning Artifice of deſigning Men, who endeavour'd to juſtify their Crimes, by the Increaſe of their Power.

As long as this diſintereſted Principle remains, the Laws will proceed in a juſt and regular Order, as it is ſet forth in the 29th Cap. of the *Magna Charta*. According to *Coke*, *Nullus liber homo capiatur vel impriſonetur, aut deſietur de libero tenemento ſuo, vel libertatibus, vel liberis conſuetudinibus ſuis, aut ut largietur, aut exuletur, aut aliquo modo deſtruatur, nec ſuper eum ibimus ; nec ſuper eum mittemus, niſi per legale judicium parium ſuorum, vel per legem terræ ; nulli vendemus, nulli negabimus, aut differemus juſtitium vel rectum.* Preferments will be given to the moſt worthy ; Taxes will be

levied and continued with the greateſt Caution and Tenderneſs; regular and clear Accounts will be given in every Year, which demonſtrate the Expence to have been always reaſonable and neceſſary; and that the Uprightneſs of the Adminiſtration may appear beyond all Contradiction, the *Preſs* will enjoy the utmoſt *Liberty*; for, a juſt Adminiſtration will never be afraid of any Thing, that ſhall impeach it. If theſe are not Signs of publick Virtue: If theſe are not Proofs of a happy Conſtitution, where ſhall we find them? What Glory, what Honours, what publick Monuments of Greatneſs ſhall we raiſe to them, who are at the Helm, and conduct us in this ſteady and happy Courſe? Titles, Statues, publick Edifices, or even annual Games inſtituted in their Honour, may be loſt in Ages: Theſe Things have already been done for Men of inferior Merit: But Benefits like ours, as they exceed whatever has been done in Times paſt, ſo the Memory of them can never be perpetuated, but by obliging our Benefactors to give an Account of their own Conduct: A Work, which never could be forgot, as long as Time ſhall endure.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 18. *Monday, May* 9, 1726.

Principiis obſta.

IT has a hard Matter to reſiſt the Importunity of one's Friends, eſpecially when they are back'd by ſo prevailing an Advocate as Curioſity. This was my Caſe t'other Day, when *Will Teſty* and one of my Secretaries, who is a Maſter of Languages came to ſee me, and made me promiſe I would go along with them to the *Opera*. When we came there, we found a prodigious Number of People drawn together to ſee two of the moſt famous Singers in *Europe*, *Cuzzoni* and *Fauſtina*. The latter comes to us with ſo ſuperior a Character, that one might expect to hear from *her*, in Reality, whatever the Poets of old, have feign'd of *Amphion*, *Orpheus*, or the *Syrens*. *Will* adviſed me, to laſh myſelf to one of the Poſts of the Gallery, where we ſate, as *Ulyſſes* did on the like Occaſion, to prevent any Accident, that might happen to me from the Power of her Incantations; but I apprehended not any Danger from this *new Comer*, having found no ill Effects in the ſweet Captivity of *Cuzzoni*.

In a little Time, a Murmur ſpread itſelf all over

over the Houſe, and every Body ſeemed to be engag'd for one or other of theſe two great Rivals in *Harmony*; but as the Generality of the World is fond of Novelty, the Advocates of *Fauſtina* ſeeem'd to be much the greater Number. Some Ladies, who ſate near us, were very partial indeed, and ſaid, *There was as much Difference between 'em, as there was between Mrs.* Robinſon *and* Boſchi; but Nobody equal'd an *Italian* in the Fulneſs of Praiſe, who *(ſpeaking of* Fauſtina*)* broke out into this Expreſſion ..... which my Secretary told us was in *Engliſh* .....

While we were thus entertain'd by the different Opinions of the People about us, we were join'd by my *Poet*, whoſe Curioſity had brought him to ſee this *Dramatick* Performance: He told us, That the ingenious *foreign Bard*, the Compiler of this *Opera*, intended at firſt to adapt the Action to the *European Manners*, and therefore, had married *Alexander* only to one of theſe *Queens*; but it ſeems, the other Lady was reſolv'd, ſhe would not be put off ſo; it being beneath the Dignity of her high Station to be ſlighted in ſuch a Manner, knowing herſelf to be every Way qualified for a Wife, as well as the other: Upon this Remonſtrance, he was ordered to married them both to this great Prince; but he, like a *wiſe Man*, underſtanding that *Bigamy*, in this *Country* is *Felony* by the Law, refus'd to do it, not knowing what Penalties an Acceſſary, in ſuch a Caſe, might be liable to. As this was thought a very reaſonable *Plea*, he was in Hopes the Matter might be accommodated by marrying neither of them, and ſo leave them to ſhift for themſelves, as well as they could in the Opinion of

of the World ; but it is a very nice Matter to decide in the Affairs of Princes ; and it ſeems, our *Bard* had never in the leaſt, conſulted the Genius of the *Emperor:* For no ſooner had this *uxorious* King Intelligence, that he was ſtill to continue a *Batchelor*, and to be deprived of thoſe ſweet Hopes, which he conceiv'd to belong to a conjugal State, but he gave a Looſe to his Paſſion, and would have killed him, as ſure as he did his old *Miniſter Clytus*, but that his *Javelin* happened not to be *pointed* ; it being a Maxim in *Dramatick Opera Chivalry*, not to ſuffer any of their Heroes to carry dangerous Weapons about them ; and indeed (continued he) I can't but ſay, I think this the greateſt Affront, that can be put upon his *Imperial Majeſty*, conſidering how quietly and peaceably he has behav'd himſelf to all his former *Queens* ; nor can the moſt malicious Tongue give any one Inſtance of his Inconſtancy. 'Tis true indeed, had this Match gone on, there might have been ſome Difficulties raiſed about the Succeſſion to this great Empire, but as long as he kept ſo able a *Miniſter* as *Boſchi*, 'tis very probable he would have taken Care, and prevented any Accidents of this Kind.

This Account of the Intrigues of the *Græcian* Court. diverted us very much ; but the reſt of the Audience ſeem'd to be under the greateſt Uneaſineſs of Expectation ; but in a very little Time, the Curtain was drawn up, and diſcover'd to us theſe female Potentates, in all the Rivalſhip of Glory. They beheld one another with ſuch an Air of Reſpect and Caution, as ſhew'd they were conſcious of each others Merit, and doubtful of the Event ; which put me in Mind of that Rencounter of the two greateſt Captains

in

in the World, and is deſcrib'd by *Lee* in this Manner,

Art thou the Man, they, the fam'd Scipio *call?*
Art thou the much more famous Hannibal?

I ſhall not pretend to decide which of theſe Ladies has the moſt Merit, they being Beauties of a different Sort, and both animated in their Way; but if *Cuzzoni* exceeds in the Sweetneſs of Voice, and the irreſiſtible Inſinuation of her Manner, *Fauſtina* is as excellent in the Modulation of her Notes, and a diſtinguiſh'd Warble in her Throat, which is peculiar to herſelf, and is what the *Italians* expreſs in an elegant Manner, *Dono del Dio.*

Theſe two Rival Queens have divided the whole Town; and there's all the Reaſon in the World to believe, that in a little Time the whole Nation will be liſted under their ſeveral Banners.

It has been the Misfortune of this Country for many Ages paſt, to have been torn to Pieces by Parties and Factions. The different Intereſts of the Houſes of *York* and *Lancaſter* were attended with very fatal Effects; and the whole Kingdom groan'd under the Calamities of a Civil War, and notwithſtanding this Difference was made up by the Marriage of *Henry* the *Seventh*, with the Lady *Elizabeth*, and by this Means the two Families became united, yet after a Reign or two the Fires of *Perſecution* burſt forth, and alternately deſtroy'd both *Papiſt* and *Proteſtant.*

During the Reign of King *James* the *Firſt*, our Holy Religion was attack'd by the Batteries of the *Roman Catholick* and the *Puritan*, and was entitely ſwallow'd up by the latter, in the Time of *Charles* the *Firſt*, his Succeſſor. The Unanimity,

Unanimity, which appear'd in the *Reſtoration* of the *Royal Family*, was ſoon diſſolv'd into Faction, and the fatal Diſtinction of *Whig* and *Tory* took its Riſe under that careleſs Government.

After that, theſe Names were buried in the Ruins of Liberty, but reviv'd again ſoon after the Revolution, with this Difference, that they are now applied to Men of quite contrary Principles, than thoſe to whom they belong'd at firſt. 'Tis ſaid, that a famous State-*Chemiſt* deſigning to bring in a new *Syſtem* of Phyſick, and obſerving the Tories to give him a great deal of Trouble in his Practice, had invented a golden Cordial, which operated in ſuch a Manner, that whoſoever taſted of it, ſpoke directly contrary to what he thought: Having diſtributed this largely, amongſt them, and in a Manner diſabled that Party, he thought himſelf ſecure; but ſuch is the perverſe Nature of Men, who will be always taking Care of their own Health and Property, that in a very little Time, a ſet of honeſt ſturdy Fellows roſe up, and under the Name of COUNTRY GENTLEMEN, oppos'd this new Syſtem; but whether or no there be any Thing in this Story, Time alone will ſhew.

I hope my Readers will pardon this long Digreſſion, ſince the Deſign of it was to ſhew the dreadful Conſequences of Parties in our Nation, and how dangerous the Names of Diſtinction may be, even from the ſmalleſt Beginnings. For my Part, I can't help thinking; but theſe two *Cromatick Queens* may be as fatal to this *Iſland* as their Predeceſſors the *Guelphs* and *Ghibelins* were to *Italy*; and it looks the more ominous, becauſe there is a great deal of Similitude in their Hiſtory.

I muſt

I muſt take the Liberty for the Inſtruction of ſuch of my female Readers, whoſe Occupations may hinder them from looking into Books, to inform them of the Origin of thoſe Party Monſters, who for a long Time waſted that delightful Country.

Theſe two Names deduce their Original from a Schiſm, which moleſted the Church in 1130, by the Competition of two Popes, *Innocent* II. and *Anaclet*: The greateſt Part of *Chriſtendom* acknowledging *Innocent*, *Anaclet* the *Antipope* had perſuaded *Roger*, Count of *Naples* and *Sicily*, a *Norman* by Deſcent, into his Intereſts, who, upon the Emperor *Conrad* the Fourth's, coming againſt him with an Army of *Germans*, allur'd to his Defence, *Guelph* Duke of *Bavaria*. During the Courſe of this War; the Emperor's Son *Henry*, ſometimes commanded the Army, who being brought up in a pleaſant Village of *Germany*, call'd *Ghibelin*, the very Name of it was dear to him. One Day, the Armies being drawn up, and ready to engage, the *Bavarians* to encourage their Comrades, cry'd out, *a Guelf! a Guelf!* and the Imperial Troops being as well diſpos'd to their General, in Complaiſance to him, cried out on the other Side, *a Ghibelin! a Ghibelin!* Theſe Words ſeem'd barbarous to the *Italians*, who came to *Guelf* to know what they meant: He told them, *the Pope's Party were intended by the Word Guelf*, and the Emperor's *by the Word Ghibelin*; from that Time thoſe Names grew ſo common, that they were given to the *Italians*, according to the ſeveral Sides they took in this War. 'Tis true, at firſt, they were us'd only to diſtinguiſh *Anaclet*'s Party from the *Emperor's*; but afterwards *Roger*, having vanquiſh'd Pope *Innocent*,

at

at the Price of his Liberty, he oblig'd him to erect the Countries of *Naples* and *Sicily* into Kingdoms, by which Treaty *Roger* being taken off, from the Intereſt of the *Antipope*, and engaging intirely with the *Church*, he affix'd the Name of *Guelf* to the *Pope's* Party, and confirm'd the Name of *Ghibelin* to the Faction of the *Emperor*. Now every Body knows, that *Fauſtina* is juſt come from *Vienna*, and is, no doubt, in the Imperial Intereſt, and conſequently all her Party are *Ghibelins:* As for *Cuzzoni*, 'tis univerſally agreed, that ſhe is a good *Catholick*, and attach'd to the *Pope*, ſo that her Friends can be diſtinguiſh'd by no other Name than *Guelphs*. How far this Contention may be carried, 'tis a hard Matter for human Foreſight to diſcern; but I think, every *Briton* ought to pray fervently that while his Countrymen go together by the Ears upon this Occaſion, their Properties may not be given away for a Song.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 19. *Friday*, *May* 13, 1726.

—— *levium Spectaculum Rerum.* VIRG.

To the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

SIR,

'Perſuade myſelf you are not ſo great a Stranger to the Town, as entirely to be unacquainted with the many groſs Enormities that are committed on our Signs, in the City of *London*. 'Tis

'Pity

'Pity the great Metropolis of *England* ſhould 'abound with ſuch Improprieties. It was the 'Opinion of the late celebrated Dr. *Sydenham*, 'that the Man, who had found a certain Re-'medy for Corns, might be ſaid ſufficiently to 'have ſerv'd his Generation. And to correct 'ſuch Extravagancies, as I am now ſpeaking 'of, as it cannot be below a Lover of his 'Country, ſo it may bring perhaps, no ſmall 'Advantage to the Commonwealth. There 'was indeed, during the *Spectator's* Time a 'certain Gentleman, that petitioned for the In-'ſpection of our Sign-Poſts; but ſince he now 'is dead, I humbly propoſe myſelf a Candidate 'to ſucceed him in ſo important an Affair, and 'ſo glorious an Undertaking; and according 'to my Predeceſſor's Method, I ſhall ſpend the 'Remainder of this Letter in a Diſcourſe upon 'the Subjects of my Office, that I may in ſome 'Meaſure evidence myſelf not altogether un-'worthy to come after him, in this Employ-'ment.

'I lay it down then, as a certain Rule, that 'every Sign ſhould have a Reference to the 'Maſter's Trade. A Shoemaker does well to 'live at the *Boot* and *Shoe*, intimating two of 'the chief Commodities his Shop furniſhes us 'with. A *Blackmore*'s *Head* is not at all im-'proper for a Goldſmith, ſince the Treaſure 'he deals in, are dug from the Boweis of that 'Earth, of which our *Indian* is a Native. Nor 'do I wonder a *Rainbow* ſo commonly de-'notes a Dyer. A *Maiden-Queen* is very well 'adapted to a Mercer, becauſe the fair Sex are 'the chief Support of his Buſineſs; though I 'cannot apprehend what a *Naked-Boy* has to do 'with Luteſtrings and Brocades. A *Clock*

well

" well enough repreſents the Artificer of ſuch a " Machine; but who wou'd imagine a Matron " to ſupply her Family with the neceſſary Con- " veniencies of Linen, ſhou'd have Recourſe to " the *Boar*; or a young Lady buy her Wedding- " Shift at the *Dog's-Head in the Porridge-Pot.*

" So that there are many Signs, which are al- " together abſurd and ridiculous, and for which " no Apology can be made. Sir *Thomas Brown* " has long ſince prov'd, that a Dolphin is no " more crooked, than that an Elephant is deſti- " tute of Joints. I leave you to judge whether " the ingenious Painter is not in an Error in " drawing King *Charles* the II. with a long " Whig and a lac'd Cravat, ſo open to View in " the Royal-Oak; for I believe none will ever " queſtion, but that the Monarch endeavour'd " to hide himſelf amidſt the thickeſt Branches " of the Tree.

" Many a Perſon wou'd be puzzl'd to give " the Reaſon, why a Black is repreſented beat- " ing the Mortar before an Apothecary's Shop, " and, (though it may better agree with a Che- " miſt, than one of that Fraternity) therefore I " ſhall here give the beſt Account of it I can. " You muſt know then, Sir, there is a certain " Preparation of Quickſilver, which goes by the " Name of *Calomel* of a very white Colour. " I will not ſtartle the Ladies, who may read " this Paper with the *Greek* Etymology of this, " but ſhall only inform them, it is compound- " ed of two Words ſignifying Fair and Black. " Now one of the Furnace-Sages employ'd in his " Elaboratory a *Black* in the repeated Sublima- " tions of Mercury, and gave the Preparation, " produced by ſuch a Proceſs, a Name, that

" at once regarded the Operator and the Medi-
" cine.

" A *Magpye* is very proper to hang up be-
" fore an Ale-House or a Brandy-Shop, and a
" good *Hieroglyphick* of that unmeaning Volu-
" bility of Tongue, which is produc'd by the
" Liquors over which he seems to preside; but
" I cou'd never find out why a Man shou'd
" think of recommending his *Beer* and *Ale* by
" letting the World know from his Sign-Post,
" that he was born at *Nottingham*, &c. But the
" most unaccountable of all, was a Fellow of
" this Fraternity, who liv'd between *Brentford*
" and *Hounslow*, who inform'd you in large
" Characters, that he was *Shropshire born and*
" *liv'd at Egham*, as if it wou'd be impossible
" for a Passenger to travel that Way, and not
" have a Desire to drink with a Man, who had
" gone thro' so many Changes in his Life.

" It has been usual for Men, to honour the
" Memory of such as have been Ornaments of
" their Trade and Business, by having their Heads
" drawn for their Signs. After this manner was
" *Glauber* reverenc'd by the Chemists, 'till the
" Time of Monsieur *Lemery*, who is now al-
" low'd his Share of such Reputation, and ad-
" mitted a Partner of his Glory. Posterity has
" not been forgetful of Dr. *Butler* for the Inven-
" tion of his *Ale*; and for the Honour of the
" worshipful Company of *Cooks*, Mr. *Braund*
" is rais'd higher than ever he was in his Life,
" and may be seen every Day in the Week,
" hanging in the Air at the Corner of *Conduit-*
" *street*.

" Again, why might not a Tooth-Drawer
" have an *Æsculapius*; for according to *Cicero*,
" one of three *Greeks* of that Name, first serv'd
the

" the Publick in that Capacity; and here by
" the bye, let me obſerve, that there was a lea-
" den Inſtrument for this Purpoſe, hung up in
" the Temple of *Apollo*; tho' indeed, there
" was a Myſtery couch'd in it. It was a *Lea-*
" *den-one*, that Poſterity might pull out none,
" but rotten Teeth, and what, being very looſe,
" would yield to a Leaden-Tool.

" Some Perſons indeed, content themſelves
" by meerly letting the World know their
" Names and their Qualifications. Within a
" Century the Cure of a *Fiſtula* was accounted
" a Miracle; and it is remarkable, that Mr.
" *Boovy*, a Surgeon, once living in *Tower ſtreet*,
" being expert in this Practice, had written o-
" ver his Door (doubtleſs, ſays Dr. *T*———
" in Gold-Letters) *Here liveth one that can cure a*
" *Fiſtula*. But I can give no better an Account
" of the Surgeon's Signs, than in the Words of
" a Gentleman, who in a Diſcourſe prefix'd to
" his Treatiſe of the Stone, delivers himſelf on
" this Point after this manner. " Pride and Lux-
" ury have brought up many Faſhions. Sur-
" geons heretofore had all of them Signs; and
" their Shops were in View of the World; but
" that moſt of the latter are remov'd out of Sight,
" and the former taken down, is not becauſe
" they deſire to be more obſcure, but becauſe
" it is the Faſhion to have only their Names
" writ on the Front of their Houſes, with an
" Addition of what they are; and ſome not ſa-
" tisfied with that, add likewiſe what they were,
" which ſhews they are ſtill as willing to be em-
" ploy'd as ever; for tho' this Way of making
" themſelves known is genteeler, as they ima-
" gine, it is not leſs effectual; unleſs you think

" a ſmall Sign hanging amongſt ſo many others " is more to be taken Notice of, than thoſe " with Characters of Gold upon black, that " cannot be overlook'd by any Mortal, who " has Sight enough to ſhun a Poſt."

" By this Time, Sir, I hope you ſee, I do " not contend for a Regulation of what I do not " underſtand. I ſhall now preſent you, ſome of " thoſe Corrections I ſhall make in the Affair of " Signs, if I am elected into this Office.

" I. One Trade ſhall not hang out the Sign " made uſe of by a different one; and yet, for " Want of this Regulation, an Inn-keeper, and " an Apothecary are both to be met with at the " *Three-Cups*: Tho' I think, none has yet u- " ſurp'd from the Midwife her Cradle, which " without Diſpute is her undoubted Prerogative.

" II. No Bookſeller ſhall enjoy the Privi- " ledge of an Author's Head, when he was ne- " ver concern'd in printing his Works.

" III. Nothing contradictory to Truth ſhall " be made uſe of for a Sign, and therefore a " Milliner ſhall not be permitted to preſent us " with an Angel flirting a Fan. Miracles like- " wiſe ſhall be met with as rarely as they are in " Nature itſelf: But I muſt make one Excep- " tion to this Rule, and allow every Street to " hang out the Portrait of the *wild Youth* lately " brought over.

" IV. No Tradeſman, nor any Perſon of a- " ny Profeſſion ſhall be honour'd with his Ma- " jeſty's Picture, who is not well affected to the " Government.

V.

" V. No Clergyman, upon any Account " whatever, ſhall be hung upon a Sign-Poſt. " But I am ſo eager to be eſtabliſh'd in my Of- " fice, that I can carry this Diſcourſe no farther. " Now, Sir, if you are pleas'd with my Deſign, " and ſatisfied with my Ability to execute " it, by publiſhing this in your next Paper, you " will very much oblige,

May 10th 1726. *Your moſt humble Servant*,

A. N.

P. S. " If I am honour'd with this Office " of Inſpector of Sign-Poſts, I ſhall claim it as " my Due, to have my own Head plac'd in " ſome publick Part of the Town; and at the " ſame Time I muſt deſire, that no Tradeſman, " or Phyſician (Male or Female) put up any " Sign, Device, or Label, near or upon their " reſpective Habitations, without a Certificate " from my Office."

This Gentleman's Requeſt is ſo reaſonable, that I cannot refuſe it, and therefore I take this Opportunity to let him know, that I have writ to *Will. Teſty* about it, who will make out his Commiſſion with all Expedition.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 20. *Monday, May* 16, 1726.

Eſt natura hominum novitatis avida.

HAVING long obſerv'd with a great Deal of Concern, that the publick News-Papers are not ſufficient to ſatisfy the immoderate Thirſt of my Countrymen, who ſeem to languiſh every Day for Want of more Intelligence, I have reſolv'd to enlarge my Correſpondence, and hope by this Means to furniſh my Readers, from Time to Time, with ſuch foreign and domeſtick Accounts, as they will not find in any other of the Diurnal-Papers, and gratify the Curioſity of thoſe inquiſitive Spirits, who are impatient to know what is a doing every where. At preſent indeed, there is ſo much Uncertainty in all the Advices we have from Abroad, that it does not become the Candour of a Man, who lays down Truth for a Principle of his Direction, to meddle with them at all. I ſhall therefore confine myſelf to ſuch authentick Informations, as I can get at Home, in which Nobody can poſſibly imagine, I would venture to impoſe upon them, becauſe I am liable to ſo eaſy a Detection.

London, May, 11th. All our Advices agree, that a defenſive Alliance is concluded between the two maritime Towns of *Fulham* and *Putney*, and that new Treaties of Commerce are to be ſettled

ſettled very much to the Advantage of the Subjects of both thoſe Common-Wealths.

Letters from *Mortlack* of the 20th of *April*, *N. S.* inform us, that the *Surrey* Fleet, conſiſting of 59 Men of War, ſail'd the 19th Inſtant to obſerve the Motions of the *Twickenhamites*, which occaſions various Speculations; and ſome People don't ſcruple to ſay, that the Admiral of *Mortlack* has Orders to fall on 'em with his whole Force, if they will not declare for a Neutrality.

Hounſlow, *April*, *the* 30th. Fifty Battalions and as many Squadrons, paſs'd through this City Yeſterday, in Order to form a Camp upon the Banks of our River, which with the Troops from *Staines*, *Egham*, and the neighbouring Provinces, will make an Army of thirty five thouſand Men, which will be abundantly ſufficient to prevent any Surprize on that Side of the Country.

Hammerſmith, *May*, *the* 1ſt. *N. S.* Our Miniſter *here*, obſerves ſo profound a Silence, that Nobody has as yet been able to penetrate into his Deſigns; but notwithſtanding, it is whiſper'd, that he is carrying on a ſecret Negociation with the Court of *Chelſea*.

Lambeth, *April*, *the* 1ſt. *O. S.* A Maſter of a Ship, who arriv'd here in one and twenty Days from *Chelſea*, reports, that the Troops and Penſioners of that Province, have Orders to hold themſelves in Readineſs upon any Emergency; but as they are commanded only to furniſh themſelves with *Squirts* and *Potguns*, 'tis not likely that they are under any great Apprehenſions.

Brentford, *May the* 11th. Expreſſes are continually going to and fro in this City; and 'tis ſaid, that there is great Likelihood, that a Congreſs will be form'd in *Windſor* by the latter End of this Summer.

Wandſworth

Wandſworth, *May*, *the* 6th. A Squadron of Men of War has been ſeen off this Place, which is ſuppos'd to be Part of the Fleet, which is to join the Admiral of *Mortlack*.

Cheſwick, *May*, 10th. Our Country enjoys a perfect Tranquillity; and there ſeems to be that Harmony between our Miniſters and thoſe of all the foreign Courts, that it is highly probable we ſhall have no Share in their Differences. This Happineſs has been, in a great Meaſure owing to the careful Adminiſtration of our Preſident of the Council, whoſe Wiſdom and Foreſight can never be too much admir'd.

Barn-Elms, *April*, 22d. *O. S.* Strange Apparitions have lately been ſeen in this Country, which have alarm'd all the Inhabitants hereabouts, and particularly in the Woods, one was diſcover'd with two Faces, and another without any Face at all.

The following Memorial, being a Piece never yet made publick, I hope will be acceptable to my Readers.

The Marquis of Teddington's *Memorial to the States of* Putney *and* Fulham.

THE underwritten Marquis of *Teddington*, his ruſtick Majeſty's Ambaſſador, has reſolv'd to hide, even from himſelf, all thoſe Repreſentations he had to make to your Lordſhips, 'till you ſhould have anſwer'd the Letter from the King his Maſter, deliver'd the 6*th* of *February*, by the Secretary *Bumkin*, charg'd with the maritime Affairs of his Provinces: But new Orders from his Majeſty dated the 11th of the ſaid *February* oblige him to lay before your Lordſhips, and to repeat to you the Sincerity of his Majeſty's royal Intentions, and of his Zeal

for

for the Preſervation of the Commerce of his Allies, the only Point the King his Maſter has in View, purſued with the utmoſt Eagerneſs for the Benefit of People, that are likely to be oppreſs'd, by the Interruption of their Navigation.

Your Lordſhips will no Doubt, before you proceed on this great Work, and ſettle the Articles of Commerce between one another, endeavour to conciliate the oppoſite Intereſts of my Maſter, who being tenacious of his Claims to an uninterrupted Navigation on the Coaſts of *Middleſex* and *Surrey*, will have juſt Cauſe to complain of this Treaty, now enter'd upon, and almoſt confirm'd, ſhou'd any Ways interfere with his juſt *Rights* and *Privileges*, and put any Difficulties upon the Trade of his Subjects. His Majeſty cannot ſuppoſe, but that your Lordſhips, who have always acted with the utmoſt Juſtice and Caution, will not at this Time, do any Thing incompatible with former Treaties, eſpecially to a Prince, who has given ſo many Marks of Goodwill and conſtant Friendſhip to your Republicks. His Majeſty therefore thinks it highly reaſonable, that he ſhou'd be made a Party to this Treaty, and therefore is willing to enter into Negotiations with your Lordſhips to redreſs all Grievances, if any can be prov'd, not only againſt the Tenor of former Treaties, but likewiſe the leaſt Prejudice in what is beneficial to theſe Republicks: And ſince for Ages immemorial the Ships of his Majeſty's Subjects of *Teddington*, and all the Coaſts thereabouts, have had free Paſſage thro' the Streights of *Putney*, and likewiſe Liberty of trading in any Part of the known World, it ſeems very ſurprizing to his ruſtick Majeſty, that their Lordſhips ſhou'd be offended, or take any Umbrage becauſe the Subjects of *Teddington* carry

carry on their Trade to thoſe Parts, where they themſelves have ſo great Settlements, and conſequently nothing to fear; and more eſpecially ſince this Navigation cannot poſſibly be interpreted to contravene any former Treaties or Stipulations.

The underwritten can ingenuouſly aſſure your Lordſhips, that by making the Streights of *Fulham* and *Putney* unnavigable, or by any violent Reſolution, which your Power may flatter you to take in any other Part of the World, which may make all Accommodation impracticable, your Condition will be render'd infinitely worſe, than by relying on his Majeſty's Juſtice and Clemency, who not only has the utmoſt Regard in particular for your Lordſhips, but the moſt paſſionate Deſire of maintaining the univerſal Tranquillity of *Europe*.

Done at *Putney*, the 14*th* of *May*,

Signed, *The Marquis of* Teddington.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 21. *Friday, May*, 20, 1726.

———*Eadem Natura, vi Rationis, Hominem conciliat Homini, & ad Orationis, & ad Vitæ Societatem.* Cic. de Offic. Lib. I. C. 4.

MOnſieur *Le Clerc*, after having recited the Opinions of ſeveral Philoſophers about the Principle of Action in Brutes, ſeems to think, that they argue with moſt Judgment, who allow them ſome Degree of

of Reaſon, in Oppoſition to that unaccountable Doctrine of *Des Cartes*, who ſuppoſes them to be meer Pieces of *Mechaniſm*, and to move by Springs and Wheels, no otherways than Clocks and Watches. If Reaſon then be common to Men and Brutes, wherein does that boaſted Difference conſiſt, which we have valued ourſelves upon ſo long? It can only be found in Speech: This is what Mankind enjoy alone; and tho' other Creatures have been taught to imitate the Sounds of Words, yet they never were underſtood to know the Meaning of what they ſaid. The Benefits of Speech are finely deſcrib'd in the Works of the ſuppos'd Author of the whole Duty of Man, which I ſhall tranſcribe for the Benefit of ſome of my Readers, who I may imagine never ſaw it in the Original.

" From this it is (ſays he) we derive all the " Advantages of Society; without this, Men of " the neareſt Neighbourhood wou'd have ſigni- " fied no more to each other, than our Antipodes " now do to us. All our Arts and Sciences, for " the Accommodation of this Life, had remain'd " only a rude *Chaos* in their firſt Matter, had " not Speech by a mutual comparing of No- " tions rang'd them in Order. By this it is we " give one another Notice of our Wants, and " ſollicit Relief; by this we interchangeably com- " municate Advices, Reproofs, Conſolations, all " the neceſſary Aids of human Imbecility; this " is what poſſeſſes us of the moſt valuable Bleſ- " ſing of human Life, I mean Friendſhip, which " cou'd no more have been contracted amongſt " dumb Men, than it can between Pictures and " Statues; nay, farther, to this we owe in a " great Degree the Intereſts even of our ſpiritual " Being, all the oral, yea and written Revelations

" too

" too, of God's Will; for had there been no Lan-
" guage, there had been no Writing, *&c.*" This is a beautiful Deſcription, and takes in all the Uſes of Speech; but I ſhall only conſider it here as it relates to Converſation, or rather what is call'd *Chit Chat*. As this generally riſes from Affairs in immediate Agitation, or what have been lately done, it is call'd by ſome People *News*, but much oftner deſerves the Name of *Scandal:* Here, the Tongue is altogether arbitrary, confining itſelf within no certain Bounds; but utters Truth or Falſhood, juſt as it entertains the Company. There are two Things very remarkable in this Sort of Language; the firſt, that it very rarely meddles with Things of great Conſequence; the other, that it hardly ever recovers itſelf after Reſt. Men of Senſe are often puzzled with this Dialect; and I have ſeen a Perſon, who has diſtinguiſh'd himſelf in a Debate of the greateſt Importance, at a Loſs how to behave himſelf in one of theſe Aſſemblies.

'Tis fooliſh enough, to ſee a Fellow of not three Grains of Senſe, big with Applauſe, domineer in theſe ſmall Societies. I muſt own, I have been vex'd at his Succeſs, and wonder'd how Words, which were only deſign'd to ſtand for our *Ideas*, ſhou'd be of any Uſe to a Man, who ſeem'd to have no *Ideas* at all: But however, this inſignificant Prattle makes him courted every where, and conſider'd as more than one *Man*, by a Phraſe adapted to *himſelf*, that *ſurely he is the beſt Company*——— So far as this inſignificant Oratory is kept within the Bounds of Decency and good Nature, it may be ſufferable in either Sex, and perhaps is more eligible than that ſtupid Silence, which is often obſervable amongſt them. How many Mutes have we

in

in all Male-societies, who make no more Noise than the Chairs they sit upon, and are never thought on, but when the Reckoning comes to be paid, or a Question is to be decided by the *Poll?* On the contrary, it moves one's Concern to see a Creature, as pretty as an Angel, chime upon two or three Sentences a whole Evening. I have heard a Lady *love a Man for that*, for which she shou'd have given him a Box on the Ear, and tell another she shou'd never *love black Eyes again*, because he had said, hers were the finest he ever saw. This Dearth of Conversation is terrible in a conjugal State, and enough to starve an Affection of the best Constitution imaginable. A Man may as well make a Contract with a Picture, as such a Woman; therefore I wou'd advise all the Ladies of *Great-Britain* to take the greatest Pains in this Part of their Education. Methinks it wou'd not be amiss to take Sureties of their Speech, as well as their Religion, and not suffer any Woman to enter into the holy State of Matrimony, that had not a Certificate of her Conversation from Judges appointed for that Purpose; at least it shou'd be a Reason of Divorce, if the Husband cou'd prove his Consort had been mute three Days together, without Provocation. I know it may be objected, that this Proposition may encourage Women to run into the other Extream, and at that Rate, every Man's House wou'd be like a Bellfry; but in Answer to this, I must tell them, that this Law will affect so very few, that there can be no great Danger in making the Experiment.

I hope my Female-readers, will not imagine I mention this Matter, with any particular Disrespect to them, since I intend, that an Account of *Male-Mutes* shall be the Subject of another Paper.

I hap-

I happen'd t'other Day to meet with a little Piece, entitled the Deſcription of the Temple of *Venus* at *Cnidus*, &c. where having entertain'd myſelf with the beautiful Proſpect of that delightful Country, and that inimitable and chaſte Repreſentation of the Succeſs of faithful Love, I came at laſt to a Paſſage, which has that near Reſemblance to the preſent Manners of the Age we live in, that I cannot forbear tranſcribing two or three Paragraphs.

" I was born (ſays *Antilochus*) at *Cibaris*, " where my Father was one of the Prieſts of *Ve-* " *nus*. In this City they make no Diſtinction " between Luxury and Neceſſity; they baniſh " all ſuch Arts as diſturb the peaceful Slumber. " A Reward is beſtow'd upon all ſuch as are " fruitful at inventing new Scenes of Voluptu- " ouſneſs.

" The Citizens remember only ſuch Buffoons, " as have diverted them with their Folly; but " have forgot even the very Names of thoſe " Magiſtrates, that once were their Governors.

" They abuſe the Fertility of the Soil, that " produces an eternal Abundance: The peculi- " ar Favour of the Gods to the People of *Cibaris* " ſerves to no other Purpoſe, than to heighten " their Luxury and flatter their Softneſs. The " Men are ſo very effeminate; their Dreſs differs " ſo little from that of their Women; they " work up a Complexion, and curl their Hair " with ſo much Art; they throw away ſo much " Time, in correcting each Air and Feature at " the Glaſs, that one wou'd be apt to conclude, " that there was but one Sex in the whole Ci- " ty, *&c.*

But I ſhall leave this Subject; and refer my Readers to the Original, where I doubt not, but they

they will meet with an agreeable Entertainment.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 22. *Monday, May* 23, 1726.

To the Lady Henrietta Maria.

MADAM, *Rome.* A. U. 706

THE Honour of obeying your Commands, as well as the Pleasure I take in speaking of those amiable Qualities, which distinguish a Man, who bears a disinterested Love to his Country, must be my Excuse for almost filling up this Paper, with a Character once the Honour and Glory of the Inhabitants of this City; but now so little regarded, that one wou'd think the very Seeds of Virtue and Liberty were lost, and Corruption and a slavish Dependance upon the arbitrary Will of the Purchaser, were become Part of our Constitution. That Reason, which was us'd to be employ'd for the noble Purposes of guarding our Properties and securing our Laws, is now brought down so low, as to be sent on foolish Errands, and like a Livery-Servant, either excuse the Blunders of its Master among the Neighbours, or tell an impudent Lye at the Door, to prevent the Importunity of an honest Creditor. But before I shall proceed to the Description of the Man I love, I hope, *Madam*, you will excuse

cuſe an honeſt Indignation, which hurries me away to give you the Portrait of a degenerate Roman, a Freeman in Maſquerade, with a golden Gag in his Mouth, and Manacles and Shackles on his Hands and Feet.

This Man, ſome Years ago, was content with the Revenues of his Patrimony, which he cultivated to the beſt Advantage, and diſtinguiſh'd himſelf no other Way, than by Hoſpitality to his Friends and Neighbours, a religious Obſervation of the Laws, and a noble Independency on any other Perſon: But his Eſtate being incumbered by the ſeveral Taxations, that were levied for the carrying on a juſt and neceſſary War with the *Gauls*, who aim'd at univerſal Monarchy, under the Command of *Brennus* their King; and the Succeſſors making no Allowance for theſe Out-goings, but affecting to live with the ſame Reputation and Splendor as their Anceſtors, in a little Time found themſelves plunged in inſupportable Difficulties. In the mean Time, the *Quæſtors* and other Officers of the State and Treaſury got immenſe Eſtates out of the Publick, being never call'd to a regular Account under a long Series of a looſe Adminiſtration; and becauſe thoſe pretended Patriots, who had a Capacity to diſentangle the perplex'd Accounts that were given in, were either bought off at any Price, or met with ſo many Diſcouragements and Difficulties in the Purſuit, that they grew weary of it. In ſuch a Conjuncture, the honeſt Part of Mankind were by Degrees either betray'd by their Principals, or ſeduc'd by the Temptations of Bribes, into the Guilt of conniving at the moſt exorbitant Crimes, and at laſt became habitually wicked. This Madam, is the State of *Rome* at preſent: Inſtead of a People,

who

who were once remarkable for a Senſe of publick Liberty, you will find them now bending under a ſlaviſh Subjection to a Fellow-Citizen: Inſtead of a Nation remarkable for Juſtice, Temperance, and Frugality, behold them emulous in Corruption, Luxury and Effeminacy; the very Name of a publick Spirit is look'd upon as ridiculous, or ſuſpected to cover ill Deſigns: So univerſal is the Conſciouſneſs of Guilt, that you will hardly find a Man, who can believe well of another; and yet, what is moſt ſurprizing, there is nothing advanc'd by the moſt profligate, ambitious Citizen, that he does not pretend to juſtify by the Laws of his Country, and the Exigencies or Benefit of the Common-Wealth, *as if the eternal Laws of Truth were alſo capable of Corruption.*

But, Madam, I beg Pardon for keeping you ſo long in this hateful Company; and hope I ſhall make you amends, by introducing to your Acquaintance ſome Gentlemen of a quite different Conduct, who keep up to the primitive Manners and Purity of our antient and glorious Conſtitution. Your Ladyſhip will eaſily gueſs I am going to name *Luctatius* and *Marcellus*.

Luctatius is a Man every where reſpected for his Virtue, and eminent above all the *Romans* for his *Wiſdom* and *Integrity*: He is ſuperior to all thoſe Paſſions, which poſſeſs vulgar Minds, and conſcious of no Ambition but that of Knowledge, as he may apply it to the Service of his Country. He has the utmoſt Reverence for the Laws and eſtabliſh'd Rules of the Senate, and therefore cannot bear the leaſt Breach or Deviation from them, when they are contriv'd by Miniſters only to ſerve their wanton Purpoſes. His Oppoſition to Men in Power proceeds only from a Diſlike to their Actions; for his Benevolence is univerſal to all Mankind, and this has evidenc'd itſelf; becauſe

while he thought they went upon juſt Maxims, he himſelf took Part in the Adminiſtration: But neither the Charms of Preferments, nor the Terrors of Numbers, cou'd either entice him or deter him from his noble Purpoſes. That Equity, which he has ſet up for a Standard of all his Actions, can never bend to fear, nor riſe beyond its proper Sphere to the Sollicitations of Power. With what a generous Diſdain does he behold Men in Office give up all the Characteriſticks of Patriotiſm, ſhun the Appearance of Truth, and as it were conſcious of their Crimes, run into the Multitude, and ſeek that Protection from Power, which they are ſure they cannot find from Juſtice? With what a noble Contempt does he hear the blaſted Tongue of Envy defame his upright Virtue? And how impotent is that Malice, which will ſay, that his *Integrity* is only ſubſervient to his Ambition? But it is no wonder, that theſe Miſcreants endeavour to undermine what they cannot reach, and cannot bear the Luſtre of a Character, they never hear of, without Reproach to themſelves. *The laſt and wretched Support of Vice is, to endeavour to make all Mankind ſeem vicious.*

But if the ſuperior Talents of *Luctatius*, and that active Zeal, which he has always ſhewn in the moſt momentous Affairs, has expos'd him to the Rage and Obloquy of the moſt corrupt Citizens? What is it that makes *Marcellus* eſcape the Venom of evil Tongues? Who being poſſeſs'd of a noble Fortune, Maſter of all that good Senſe, which is ſo proper in the Œconomy of a ſocial Life, and diſtinguiſh'd for his Virtue, and Love of his Country; I ſay, how comes it, that in an Age of an entire Diſſolution of Manners, he avoids the Cenſure (which commonly falls on Men of Merit) of being a diſaffected

fected Perſon? I can account for it no other Way, but by his not taking an Employment. The Complaiſance he may ſometimes ſhew to the Adminiſtration, may be thought on one Side, to proceed from a Principle of Virtue in him, and it muſt diſarm their Malice, on the other Side, when he oppoſes them that are in Power, that they cannot even charge him with Ambition.

Thus, Madam, I have deſcrib'd to you, in as ſhort a Manner as I cou'd, the Characters of two *Romans*, who, becauſe they deſerve the Eſteem of all Good-Men, will be the more regarded by your Ladyſhip: But you muſt not conclude from hence, that there are not more of the ſame primitive Stamp, in this wide Empire: Doubtleſs, Madam, there are many; and I hope we ſhall ſee them in their proper Light, the Counſellors and Supporters of the *Roman* Government.

I am, Madam,
your Ladyſhip's moſt faithful,
and moſt obedient Servant,
C. G.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 23. *Friday, May* 27, 1726.

Sic Parva cum Magnis componere ſolebam.

SINCE my Creation of the Office of Inſpector of Sign-Poſts, I have had Application made to me by ſeveral Perſons, for Employments of an inferiour Sort. One Gentleman petitions that he

may be Comptroller of the *Cries* in this great City, having obſerv'd many Improprieties in this Sort of Dialect. Some of theſe Itinerant-Traders making Uſe of Epithets that are ſo far from recommending their Wares, that were they minded it wou'd certainly hinder the Sale of them, as may be inſtanc'd in *mellow Pears* and *ripe Cucumbers*, which are a Thraſh that every Body wou'd chuſe to avoid: Others again, make uſe of Words that don't at all relate to the Nature of the Commodity, and whether it were true or falſe is not in the leaſt material to the Purpoſe; thus they wou'd perſwade you to buy their *Cherries*, becauſe they are *round* as well as *ſound*, and exalt the Merits of *pickled-Salmon*, becauſe it came from *Newcaſtle*, which by the bye is a ſilly Reflection, both upon the *Thames* and *Severn*. There are ſome likewiſe, that pretend to ſell all Sorts of Commodities, that deal in nothing but *Tarts* and *Cuſtards*, and ſuch like Trumpery; theſe are your Women that go all over the Town, and cry *any Thing to Day*, to the great Diſappointment of an Abundance of well meaning credulous People, who have hop'd by their Aſſiſtance to have ſav'd a Journey to the Mercers or the Fiſhmongers.

I ſhall ſay little of hot bak'd *Faggots* and *Sweet-Hearts*, knowing nothing of their Compoſition.

This Gentleman alſo deſires, that he may have Leave to rectify ſeveral Abuſes, which have ſtole upon us in the Celebration of any important Event of our Lives; thus becauſe a General has Drums beat at his Door, to teſtify the Joy the Soldiers have to be commanded by ſo able a Captain, does it therefore follow that a couple of young Folks ſhou'd be diſturb'd the next Morning,

ing, after their Marriage with a Point of War, or the Noiſe of a Trumpet? He cannot but think this a great Reflection upon that honourable Condition; and ſeems to imply, that *Marriage is a State of Warfare*; he is of the Opinion alſo, that it is beneath the Dignity of that ſolemn Reſpect, which ſhou'd be paid to the Commemoration of the Birth-Days of Princes, or Promotion of Officers of State, to ſuffer themſelves to be ſaluted with the dull Chime of *Marrow-Bones* and *Cleavers*, and inſiſts upon it, that if ſuch a Compliment is to be endur'd at all, it only ſhou'd be in the Caſe of Matrimony, where, the Readineſs of thoſe ſanguinary Courtiers to crack their muſical Inſtruments, may be interpreted a Zeal to ſupport the honourable Cauſe of Wedlock; *Marrow-Bones* having always been treated with a great Deal of Reſpect, and eſteem'd the Food of Love. As for the muſical Notes, that are applied to *Pens* and *Card-Matches*, he looks upon it to be an unpardonable Abſurdity, and highly reflecting upon that noble and uſeful *Italian Guſto*, which at preſent, diſtinguiſhes our Countrymen.

He deſires alſo, that he may be impower'd to enquire, by what Authority the *Fiſhmonger* preſumes to ſell *Brawn* and *Veniſon* (believing that they have neither a Patent nor Preſcription for ſo unnatural a Proceeding) and what Reaſons are aſſign'd for applying the Appellative of *Burton*, to Ale brew'd in *Hockley in the Hole*, or calling thoſe Liquors, which had their Original in *Southwark* or *Weſtminſter*, by the Name of *Dorſetſhire Beer?* And to ſhew, that his Regard to Propriety is not only *critical*, but uſeful, he wou'd put a Stop to the *Apothecary*'s Practice of Phyſick, being very well aſſur'd they ſeldom put an End to the Diſtemper, but by the Death of the Patient. He wou'd likewiſe confine thoſe *vagrant Phyſicians*, that go up and down the

Country, and upon Stages, impose upon Mankind with their *Panacea*, or Medicine for all Distempers. For these and many other Reasons, he desires, that his Commission may be made out immediately, having nothing so much at Heart, as the Regulations of these little Offences and Enormities. I shall take this Affair into Consideration, being at present call'd upon to answer the underwritten Letter.

SIR,

YOU are too presuming in taking the Title, Name or Addition of The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN; *for, hitherto you have not taken the least Notice of Country Affairs, but rather intend* Politicks, little Misses *and* Lunaticks, Dreams *and* Apparitions, *with which I am as unacquainted, as you are with Hunting; for I believe you never was at the Death of a Hare. What is it to me what* Cæsar *did, after he conquer'd the* Nervi; *had he been drown'd in the* Po *like* Phaeton, *the World might then have been the better for it. I amuse myself within my own Walls, my Garden is my Library, my Theatre, my Court of Judicature, every Plant is a Volume. I delight in the green Walks and Berceau's; here I sit and judge, save and condemn, I plant and pluck up; if I go into the Fields, I have all the Pleasure of the Seasons: Hunting is my greatest Diversion, and here I think myself as great as a King; I place myself at the Head of my Army, who wait from me the Word of Command; all my Servants I make Staff-Officers; I send out my Scouts to get Intelligence, and my Valets to* reconnoitre *the Country: Instead of Drums I have Horns, which my Soldiers like better; and they are besides of singular Use; for at the very Sound of my Horn, I have seen a Hare drop down dead: Thus I move, secur'd of Victory, and bring*

Home

Home to my Camp my trembling Prey: If you have any Taſte for theſe Sports, or Country Affairs, I invite you to my Houſe, but pray be not too ſevere in your Remarks on what you ſhall think amiſs.

P. P.

This ingenious Correſpondent, attacks me in ſo handſome a Manner, that I think myſelf oblig'd to deſcribe once more that Character, which I hope was ſufficiently explain'd in my firſt Paper. *The* COUNTRY GENTLEMAN has always been underſtood to be a Perſon tenacious of the Laws and Liberties of his Country; one who conſiders the regal Power, as it is now eſtabliſh'd, an eſſential Part of our happy Conſtitution; one who is ſo jealous of the Honour of his Prince, that as he wou'd freely give any Share of his Property for his Support and Welfare, ſo he cannot without Reproach to his Conſcience, ſee any Thing tranſacted by his Servants, which may reflect upon his Juſtice or his Glory. *Here*, he has always ſtood in a juſt Oppoſition, and pierc'd through the Veil of Iniquity, by repreſenting the publick Affairs in a true Light; and taking off that Varniſh, which Ambition, Ignorance, and Avarice wou'd make uſe of to cover their pernicious Deſigns. As his Actions are entirely govern'd by Truth and Juſtice, ſo his *Integrity* has always been above the Temptation of Bribes or Penſions: Not but that he thinks it his greateſt Glory, to ſerve his Prince in an Office, where his Counſel and Adminiſtration may be uſeful both to his Maſter and his Country; but as thoſe Ideas are inſeparable in his Mind, he thinks it diſhoneſt to act in any Part, wherein theſe Views may be divided; in ſhort, as he is religiouſly attach'd to the true Intereſt and Honour of his Prince, ſo is he likewiſe as obſtinate to preſerve the Rights and Properties of his Fellow-Subjects. A Character

which has this Advantage, that it only can be condemn'd by Slaves and Sycophants.

But here, I muſt obviate a fooliſh Reflection, which may poſſibly be made by ſome little malicious Witling, who on this Occaſion may think himſelf very conſiderable, when he has ſaid *I believe the* COUNTRY GENTLEMAN *lives far from his Neighbours, he ſpeaks ſo well of himſelf.* As I have been before hand with him in this Obſervation, I muſt farther inform him, that the Author under this Appellation, intends a general Character, which he wiſhes was more extenſive than it ſeems to be at preſent: But however, he thinks himſelf juſtified under this Title, to treat of any Subject, which may either tend to the Diverſion or Inſtruction of Mankind.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 24, *Monday, May* 30, 1726.

Cenſoris Judicium, damnato nihil affert niſi Ruborem.

THE Deſire of Knowledge, is certainly very commendable, as it engages us in thoſe innocent and uſeful Purſuits, by which we delight or inſtruct our Minds. When a Man can bring himſelf into this Habit, he every Day finds an Entertainment in new Objects; and Time is ſo far from being a Burthen to him, that he wiſhes the Hours multiplied, that he may have more Opportunity of increaſing his Stock of Learning, and improving his Judgment. That Man alone can be ſaid to be happy, who buſies

ſies himſelf in enquiring into thoſe great and important Truths, which muſt give him an Expectation of an endleſs Bliſs hereafter, or diſengage him here from thoſe ſupernumerary Horrors, which affright a Mind fill'd with Doubts and Fears, and render Life uncomfortable, even in the moſt vigorous Health, and the greateſt Affluence. Tho' this is an Enquiry, which never ought to be neglected, yet there are many other Things neceſſary to be known, in Order to form a right Conduct for the Buſineſs of Life. We ſhou'd be no Strangers to the Precepts of Morality, which render us agreeable to our Neighbours and Friends abroad; nor ignorant of thoſe Rules of Œconomy, which are neceſſary to the Quiet and Well-being of our Families at Home. We may carry our Views ſtill farther, and look into thoſe delightful Scenes, which Philoſophy has opened to us, in *natural Hiſtory*, *Metaphyſicks* and *Mathematicks:* Here is an eternal Fund of Pleaſure; nor need we be ſollicitous of ever wanting ſome other Employment when we come to our Journey's End. But tho' the Manſions of Knowledge lie at a very great Diſtance, yet we ſhou'd not be diſcourag'd, but attempt to viſit them; becauſe the Road is ſo full of Beauty, and we cannot fail of collecting ſomething on the Way, which will recompence us for our Trouble; at leaſt it will free us from thoſe Perturbations, which ariſe from Envy, Detraction and Ambition, as giving us no Leiſure to employ a Word or Thought to the Prejudice of another, and prevent that common Calamity, which befalls Mankind of being miſchievous, for Want of ſomething to do. Beſides theſe Advantages, an Enquiry after uſeful Knowledge, makes a Man become the Character of a reaſonable Being, and hinders him from expoſing himſelf to the Deriſion and Contempt of his fellow Creatures, who ſeem

to

to watch for all Occaſions to draw a Man into Abſurdities, and make him the Jeſt of the Company. But ſuch is the Perverſeneſs of human Nature, that the Generality of Mankind run after thoſe Things, which are quite out of their Character, and will appear to underſtand that, of which they know the leaſt. How often do we ſee a Lawyer give his Opinion upon Poetry? And a Phyſician in Points of Divinity? A Stateſman ſet up for a Judge in Morality; and a Mechanick dicide in Politicks? Thus Men, by aiming to paſs for what they are not, loſe very often the Merit of that, in which they are ſuperior. *Jack Pounce* is an ingenious *Clerk*, and a very uſeful Man in his Way, but *Jack* will be a Politician in Spight of Nature, and become more and more ridiculous every Day. I happen'd to ſee him at the Coffee-Houſe t'other Night, where after he had read the *Poſt-Man*, *Poſt-Boy*, *Flying-Poſt*, *London-Gazette*, *Daily-Poſt*, *Daily-Courant*, *Daily-Journal*, *Amſterdam*, *Haerlem*, and *Paris-Gazettes*, *Britiſh-Journal*, *London-Journal*, and *Miſt's-Journal*, *the Evening-Poſt*, *St. James's and White-Hall Evening-Poſts*, with ſome others, that I can't think of, he apply'd himſelf to an Audience (which always come there, to hear his Deciſions upon the preſent Poſture of Affairs) in this manner. *What a Turn of Affairs is here in* Europe! *The Emperor confederated with* Spain *againſt us.*—*'Tis very extraordinary.*—*Who can one truſt.*—*I ſee there is no ſuch Thing as Gratitude!*—*It has made every Thing fall prodigiouſly.*—*I wonder what is become of the Emperor's Fleet! I have heard nothing of it ſince the Siege of* Belgrade, *nor of the two Regiments of Horſe that convoy'd it.*—*I ſhou'd not like to ſee them upon our Coaſt.*—*Sure theſe Troops muſt be excellent Swimmers*—*They'd harraſs the Country terribly if they were here:*—*Beſides they'll hinder*

der all our Fiſhing.—Come, come, Gentlemen let me tell you, 'tis an ugly Piece of Buſineſs. Here he paus'd a little, then began again. *Suppoſe we ſhou'd give 'em* Gibraltar *and* Port-Mahon *for* Oſtend;—— *'Tis not an ill Thought that,— I Gad I'll propoſe it.*— Here the whole Audience ſeem'd to applaud the Wiſdom of the Orator, and look'd upon Matters now to be amicably made up; but it happen'd that a Stranger that was liſtening behind him; aſk'd an unlucky Queſtion; *whether he thought the Emperor wou'd give his Conſent?* This puzzl'd the Cauſe a little, but one of the Company clear'd it up preſently, by ſaying, *ſure no Man wou'd refuſe ſuch a Trifle to his Friend.* This Suppoſition was look'd upon as an irrefragable Argument, and confirm'd by a great Majority, who unanimouſly agreed, that ſuch a Conceſſion between Friends, cou'd not be doubted of. This Succeſs encourag'd *Jack* to go on, and declare, *that tho' he had the greateſt Opinion of the Courage and Conduct of our Admirals and Seamen, yet he muſt confeſs himſelf in ſome Pain for our* Baltick *Squadron*; *not*, ſays he, *that I don't think we ſhou'd blow the* Muſcovites *out of the Water, if we were to attack 'em fairly, but I don't like fighting a Cock upon his own Dunghil: Beſides if you ſhou'd take one of their Ships, 'tis not great Odds but you catch a* Tartar: *And let me tell you* (ſays he, in a low Voice to one that ſat next him) *if the Sultan* Eſreff *ſhou'd accede to the Treaty of* Vienna, *what wou'd become of your Coaſt-Trade in the* Indies? *Nay they don't ſcruple to ſay, that the Emperor has made ſome Offers to the great* Mogul *and Emperor of* China; *and then whereabouts are we? Beſides as* Eſreff *himſelf is a Pretender, what if he ſhou'd*—— Here, he ſpoke ſo low, that I cou'd not underſtand him; but by the reciprocal Application of their Mouths to each others Ears, I

concluded

concluded it to be ſomething of too great Importance to communicate to every Body, ſo taking a Dram at the Bar, I paid my Two-pence and went away, not without reflecting on the Extravagance and Folly of Mankind, who take ſo much Pains to expoſe themſelves in all publick Places with this political Curioſity.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 25. *Friday June* 3, 1726.

——— *Quibus non favemus, eos non videmus libenter, & eorum bona ægre cernimus.*

MAN (they ſay) is a ſociable Animal, which is a Character applicable to a Beaſt too, if it means no more, than aſſociating ourſelves in Numbers for our common Security; and indeed, if we look into the Conduct of the Generality of the World, we ſhall find a great many in the Brutal Situation, who ſeem to herd with their own Species, without being poſſeſs'd of any ſocial Virtue: Benevolence, mutual Aſſiſtance, Charity with all the Train of Virtues, which wait on Friendſhip, they are entire Strangers to. Humanity, is what they call Weakneſs; and Generoſity among them, goes by the falſe Names of Extravagance and Folly. They are ſo far from having Commiſeration on the diſtreſs'd, that they look upon an unfortunate Man as a Criminal; nor ever ſtay to conſider whether his Calamities are owing to his own Miſconduct, the Oppreſſions and

and Injuſtice of others, or the inevitable Strokes of Fate: But however theſe inactive Brutes are preferable to the malicious ones, who may be properly call'd *Miniſters to the Prince of the Air, and are always going about ſeeking whom they may devour.* Theſe abandon'd Wretches having nothing to loſe themſelves, play upon Tick againſt other People's Reputations, and therefore venture at once to declare againſt all the Proprietors of any Degree of Merit. With them *P——y* has no Integrity, *K—g* is no Lawyer, *W——e* has no Capacity for Buſineſs, *S—pp—n* no Conſtancy, *P——e* is no Poet; and becauſe they wou'd invert the Order of every Thing, *the Author of this Paper is call'd the greateſt Wit who has appear'd in any Age.* One wou'd wonder how a Fellow can expect the Protection of a Society, where he is every Moment doing Hurt to ſome Body or other; and 'tis ſtrange how theſe Animals gain any Degree of Credibility: But the Misfortune is, that Pride is the Biaſs of human Nature, and we are too apt to be ſatisfied, that Men are brought low in Reputation, and by this means put in a Condition under us; and not giving ourſelves Trouble to explain upon Perſons and Things, we too often take their Characters from theſe pernicious Vermin.

It ſhou'd make us very cautious in believing an ill Report, if we did not conſider how many Men are of that malignant Spirit, that wiſhing well to none, they believe and ſay ill of all. "How many 'guilty Conſciences are there, that from the Re-'flection of their own Iniquity, conclude all Men 'are like themſelves? And therefore when they ſee 'but the leaſt Glimmering of any Fault in one, they 'take it for a Proof of their *Hypotheſis*, and with 'an envious Joy call in as many Spectators as they 'can; 'tis certain there are ſome, in whoſe Ears nothing

'nothing ſounds ſo harſh as the Commendations 'of another. On the contrary, nothing is ſo 'melodious as Defamation. *Plutarch* gives an 'apt Inſtance of this upon *Ariſtides*'s Baniſhment, 'whom when a mean Perſon had propos'd to '*Oſtraciſm*, being aſk'd what Diſpleaſure *Ariſ-* '*tides* had done him, he replied, *None, neither* '*do I know him; but it grieves me to hear every* '*Body call him a juſt Man.*

'Another ſort of Detractors there are, whoſe 'Deſigns are not ſo black, but are mean and ſor- 'did, much too light to be put in Ballance with 'a Neighbour's Credit; of theſe, ſome will pick 'up all the little Stories they can get, to humour 'a Patron: An Artifice well known by thoſe '*Trencher Gueſts*, who, like Rats, ſtill haunt the 'beſt Proviſions. Theſe Men do almoſt come up 'to a literal Senſe of what the *Pſalmiſt* ſpoke in 'a figurative, (*and eat up People for Bread,*) 'tear and worry Men in their good Names, that 'they themſelves may eat. Such Men court 'Preferment this Way, and to bring themſelves 'within the Reach of it, ſtick not to aſſume the 'vileſt of common Delators.'

One would wonder that human Nature ſhould have ſo little Reflection, as not to find out, that it is a Branch even of the Principle of Self-Preſerva- tion, to be tender of the Characters of other People; for, were it not for that unwarrantable Favour, which is ſhewn to thoſe, who delight in Detraction and Defamation, many Actions which ariſe from ſudden Paſſion, or are the ne- ceſſary Companions of an unhappy Conſtitution, or are the Miſtakes of a haſty Judgment, and now are charg'd upon us as Crimes, would be overlook'd: But when Men feel themſelves hurt by falſe Informations, and have even their Weak-

neſſes

neſſes exaggerated by the Folly or Malice of others, it ſours their Tempers, and provokes them to return the like Uſage; and becauſe they don't know where to point at their real Enemies; they ſhed the Venom of their Revenge on the whole *Species*. Thus Mankind live in a ſtate of War; and inſtead of making Uſe of Speech to ſoften the Cares of Life, and to contribute to their mutual Aſſiſtance, only employ it as an Inſtrument of Cruelty or Revenge; and far from conceiving any Delight in the growing Reputation of one another, (a Satisfaction, which becomes a reaſonable Being) their greateſt Pleaſure is in the Calamity or bleeding Fame of their fellow Creature.

I can't forbear mentioning (now I have an Opportunity) the Pleaſure I had in reading a beautiful Poem, call'd *Cadenus* and *Vaneſſa*, writ by Dr. *Swift*, a Perſon very well known, and of too much Merit to be deſcribed by any Body but himſelf. But as the Moral, which may be drawn from the ingenious Piece, is worth the Attention of my female Readers, I moſt earneſtly recommend it to them. In the mean Time, I ſhall take the Liberty to tranſcribe a few Lines for their preſent Entertainment.

The Goddeſs thus pronounc'd her Doom:
When lo! Vaneſſa *in her Bloom*
Advanc'd like Atalanta's *Star,*
But rarely ſeen and ſeen from far:
In a new World with Caution ſtept,
Watch'd all the Company ſhe kept;
Well knowing from the Books ſhe read,
What dangerous Paths young Virgins tread:
Wou'd ſeldom at the Park appear,
Nor ſaw the Playhouſe twice a Year;
Yet not incurious, was inclin'd
To know the Converſe of Mankind.

Firſt

Firſt iſſued from Perfumer's Shops
A Crowd of faſhionable Fops;
They aſk'd her how ſhe lik'd the Play?
Then told the Tattle of the Day;
A Duel fought laſt Night at two,
About a Lady you know who:
Talk'd of a new Italian *come*
Either from Germany *or* Rome:
Gave Hints of who and who's together;
Then fall to talking of the Weather;
Laſt Night was ſo extreamly fine,
The Ladies walk'd till after Nine.
Then in ſoft Voice and Speech abſurd,
With Nonſenſe every ſecond Word;
With Fuſtian from exploded Plays
They celebrate her Beauty's Praiſe
Run o're the Cant of ſtupid Lyes,
And tell the Murder of her Eyes.
With ſilent Scorn Venaſſa *ſat*, &c.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 26. *Monday, June* 6, 1726.

Locus ille mutus. CIC.

I Promis'd in a foregoing Paper, to give my Readers ſome Account of another Sort of ſilent Beings, which move up and down like Clockwork, and give us no other Idea of their Exiſtence, but in their performing of Actions common to Brutes. Theſe I diſtinguiſh by the Name of *Male-Mutes.*

It

It is obſervable, that Men are ſilent for three Reaſons, either out of Sullenneſs, Modeſty, or Stupidity. Of the firſt Sort is the proud Man, who thinks No-body good enough for his Converſation, and therefore, won't condeſcend to communicate his Thoughts: The next is the modeſt Man, who diſtruſts himſelf, and is afraid of expoſing his Character, and therefore won't venture to talk: Of the other Sort, is the Man of an impenetrable Skull, whoſe Organs are ſo contriv'd, that there is hardly any Communication between his Brain and his Tongue; this Man is dumb of Neceſſity, and therefore, ſhould be pitied. Under this Claſs alſo, we may range the *Demi-Mute*; this is a Creature, that ſeldom ventures beyond a Monoſyllable, as, *See that queer Cur*; *ſmoke his Clocks*, and the like uſeful Expreſſions. There are Shoals of theſe Animals in all publick Aſſemblies, who take Care to diſtinguiſh themſelves by a peculiar Stare of their Eyes, and a vaſt Quantity of Powder in their Perukes.

I ſhall conclude this Paper, with an Account of a very extraordinary Club, that has lately been ſet up in *Fuller*'s-*Rents*——called the *dumb Club*.

This Club conſiſts of a *Preſident*, ten *Fellows*, and a *Secretary*. The *Preſident* is an old *Bencher*, of the *Inner-Temple*, who has been hardly heard to ſpeak theſe four Years; of each Side of him, are a Couple of *fat ſquab young Gentlemen*, with little ſleepy Eyes, broad Faces, and ſhort Necks, theſe are always to attend upon the *Preſident*, and be conſtantly ſupplied out of the eldeſt Sons of Families, whoſe Fathers died in their Infancy, and left them under the Care of their Mothers. There are beſides, two *Barriſters* at Law, who have loſt the Uſe of their Tongues for want of Practice;

likewiſe a Couple of *Poets*, who have got ſuch a Hiſſing in their Ears, occaſioned by a Cold catch'd at the Play, in a thin Houſe, that they have never been obſerv'd to open their Mouths ſince: Another, is an *Eccleſiaſtick* ſtruck dumb the firſt of *January* laſt, by a fat Living in the Weſt. The laſt of all is an *old Officer*, who was ſhot thro' the Ear at a Levee ſome Time ago, and has continued ſpeechleſs ever ſince. Theſe Gentlemen meet every Day a little before Noon, and over a Glaſs of *Mum*, give their Opinions on all Occurrences.

The *Preſident* gives the *Secretary* the Heads of what they are to debate upon that Day, which he carries to the youngeſt Fellow, who writes his Opinion thereupon, this is deliver'd to the next, who approves or diſapproves with a *Nod* or a *Shrug*, ſo it goes on to the *Preſident* again, where it is confirm'd or diſannull'd according to the Majority of *Nods* or *Shrugs*.

If any Member has any new Matter to offer, he ſtands up and bows to the *Preſident*, who, if he approves, points to the *Secretary* who brings it directly to him.

Since their firſt Inſtitution, the leaſt Difference has not been obſerv'd amongſt them; nor has there been but one Removal, which happened to a *Beau*, formerly a Member of this Society, one of his Legs having ſtray'd out of its proper Place: The *Secretary* in advancing to the Table, by Chance trod on his Toe, which made him cry out *Z——ds*; upon this, the whole Aſſembly roſe and drew their Shoulders up cloſe to their Ears; and tho' this unhappy Gentleman ſhew'd all the Signs of Penitence, and even had *nothing to ſay for himſelf*, he was immediately excluded.

The

The *old Soldier* was the Perſon that ſucceeded him.

There was a *pert young Fellow*, t'other Day, in a green Feather, and a Shoulder-knot, came very early to the Houſe, and would have taken a Place at the Board, ſwearing he was ſure that Nobody *there* would *ſay a Word* againſt it; but the Man of the Houſe deſired him not to preſs in upon the Company, where he was ſure not *one of them* would *give him a civil Anſwer*.

This Society have a quarterly Meeting, when none muſt be abſent under the Penalty of Excluſion. At this Time they receive and determine the Petitions of all thoſe, who are Candidates for Admittance, in Caſe any of the Society have a Mind to withdraw, or any Place, upon any other Occaſion, be vacant.

It is reported, there will be two Chairs empty very ſoon, for one of the *Lawyers* has juſt receiv'd a Letter from the Country, with an Account, that a Relation of his has order'd him ten Shillings as a Fee, for appearing for him in a Cauſe next Term; therefore, he is reſolved to try his Fortune once more at the Bar; and the *other*, having had ſeveral conſiderable Offers from the Company of Undertakers to appear for them at People of Qualities Houſes on State-Days, has taken it into Conſideration, whether or no it may be conſiſtent with the Character of a Lawyer, to take Fees for ſaying nothing.

The following Letter being ſent to me by a Lady, who profeſſes a Friendſhip for me, I ſhall be excus'd for inſerting it here, by which Means alſo, I ſhall have an Opportunity of communicating an Anſwer, I hope to her Satisfaction.

SIR,

I WAS in Company t'other Day, where your Paper upon the Opera *was mention'd very much to your Diſadvantage, by ſome Ladies not remarkable for the beſt Underſtanding. It ſeems, they are very much affronted at your calling them Names, for their eſpouſing the different Intereſt of the Rival Queens* Cuzzoni *and* Fauſtina. *I ſuppoſe, they alluded to the Words* Guelphs *and* Ghibelins, *which are the Appellatives you ingeniouſly make Uſe of to diſtinguiſh the different Factions, which have lately ariſen in the Town, upon the Account of theſe two Ladies; indeed, they did not venture to ſpeak out the Words, becauſe, I believe they were too hard for their Pronunciation; but, Sir, before I left them, I made them ſo much aſhamed of their Ignorance, and unjuſt Malice in this Affair, that they have promis'd to be reconcil'd to you, and only deſire two or three Days time, to learn how to expreſs the Words properly, that they may be able to declare which Side they are of. Sir, I hope for this good Piece of Service, you will not think me unreaſonable, if I deſire to be put upon the Liſt of your Penſioners, for you muſt underſtand the World ſo well, that none of us care to give ourſelves Trouble for nothing. Your Compliance in this, will greatly oblige,*

SIR,

Your moſt obedient Servant,

and Admirer,

E. WILDAIR.

P. S. *I am the ſame Perſon, who writ to you once before, to recommend me to the wild Youth; but*

but you need not be in haſte about that Matter, for tho' we have had ſeveral Meetings, yet we are not come to an Agreement about the Title, having ſubmitted it to you, that he ſhould be given to the faireſt; but I don't know how it is, there is not one of them has given up their Pretenſions yet.

I am very much oblig'd to this Lady for her Friendſhip to me, and aſſure her, that upon the very next Vacancy ſhe ſhall be provided for.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 27. *Friday, June* 10, 1726.

Dii talem a noſtris terris avertite peſtem.

I HAVE lately been reading a little *French* Book call'd, *Teſtament politique de Louvois*, and cannot remember in my whole Life, that I ever was more mov'd with Indignation, than when I came to ſome of thoſe deteſtable Maxims of Government, which he there lays down as neceſſary for all wiſe Miniſters of State to obſerve. I ſhall take the Liberty to mention ſome of the moſt remarkable, in Hopes to raiſe in the Minds of my Countrymen, a juſt Abhorrence of thoſe execrable Principles, which, it ſeems, this *French Miniſter* look'd upon as the Fineſſe and Glory of his Character.

The firſt I ſhall obſerve is, 'That there is no 'Form of Government tolerable or rational, but 'that of abſolute Monarchy. Another is, That

'Dominion ſhould be founded on Fear, nothing 'but Terror being ſufficient, to keep a turbulent 'Race of People (ſuch as the generality of Man-'kind are) in conſtant and due Subjection. Ano-'ther is, That the People are *Brute-Beaſts*, and 'muſt be rid with Bit and Bridle, or they will 'grow ungovernable; that, at firſt, perhaps, they 'may be a little obſtinate and unruly, but by 'Degrees, and a ſtrict Hand kept over them, 'they will become more gentle; and that the 'harder you hold the Reins, and the heavier 'the Yoke is, you put upon them, the better they 'will drive, or be ridden. A Fourth is, That 'Trade and Commerce are of no Uſe to a Coun-'try, but as they enable the People to pay their 'Taxes to the King, which he may extort from 'them as oft, and in what Proportion he pleaſes, 'the Lives and Properties of his People being 'his own entirely, and to be taken from them at 'Pleaſure.' This Book is filled with ſuch monſtrous Maxims as theſe, enough to make one loath the Author; therefore, I ſhall leave it, to give my Readers his own Character, deſcribed by himſelf, which when he affects to talk modeſtly is this, *That he was imperious and haughty, arrogant and over-bearing in Power*; to which by the Obſervation I have made of him from his Book, I think I may add, that in all his Projects he was impetuous and warm, tho' naturally made up of cold and heavy Particles, ſo that in Buſineſs, tho' he was *impatient*, *furious* and *daring*, yet at the ſame Time he was *dull*, *tedious* and *ſtupid*. *Hudibraſs* very archly draws ſuch a Character.

And as a Dog that turns the Spit
Beſtirs himſelf and plies his Feet;
To climb the Wheel, but all in vain,
His own Weight brings him down again;

And

And ſtill he's in the ſelf-ſame Place,
As at his ſetting out he was.

But now I am deſcribing him, he puts me in Mind of a remarkable Story in *France*, of a poor Fellow, who made a Song with a little Freedom in it, upon the Times, which he carried to a Printer, with a Deſign, I ſuppoſe, of communicating it to the Publick; the Printer deſired a few Hours to conſider of it, in which Time he gave Notice to the Secretary: *Louvois*, immediately diſpatch'd a Warrant for taking up the Man, ſeizing his Papers, and bring him perſonally before him: After he had examin'd him, and threatned him a good while, to know if he himſelf was the Author of it, or any Body elſe (for 'tis ſaid, he was in Hopes of fixing it upon ſome Perſon of more Conſequence,) he order'd him by a *Lettre de Cachet* to be carried to the *Baſtile*.

I muſt obſerve one Thing very particular in this Story, that upon looking over this Man's Papers, the Secretary found in one Place ſeveral Rhimes (or as the *French* call it *Bouts Rimés)* which perplex'd him very much, ſuch as *Ruſs'*, *Pruſs'*, *Arbitraire*, *Militaire*, *L'Argent*, *Content*, *Traité*, *Concaſſé*, *Factions*, *Actions*, *Hauſſé*, *Baiſſé* and ſuch like; in another he diſcover'd ſome Letters written by Women, but in a Hand ſo uncommon, that this ſuſpicious Miniſter ſent immediately for one of his Decypherers, who happening to be a Man of Gallantry, aſſured his Maſter, that the Meaning of that Correſpondence could only be a Conſpiracy againſt the Honour of ſome particular Lady: In a third Place, he took Notice of an Account ſtated between one of his own Creatures and a Bookſeller; upon examining into this Affair, it ſeem'd, that this Fellow had re-

ceiv'd ſeveral Sums of Money from this Book-ſeller, by the Hands of the Priſoner, for ſome Pieces which he had formerly wrote againſt the Adminiſtration; and though this was all that poſſibly could be prov'd againſt him, and the poor Man begg'd very hard to be releaſed, yet, his Prayers met with nothing but hard Names, ſuch as Dog, Rogue and Raſcal, of which, on all Occaſions, this imperious Miniſter had a moſt elegant Superfluity, inſomuch, that the King uſed often to call him MONGROS BRUTAL DE LOUVOIS.

It happen'd, that this Miniſter about five and twenty Years after, going to ſee the State-Priſoners in the *Baſtile*, found this poor Fellow amongſt the Reſt. He aſk'd him how he came there? The Man modeſtly reply'd, he knew beſt, that had ſent him there twenty five Years ago. The Secretary ſeem'd ſurpriz'd at his Anſwer, and ſaid, it was a Miſtake, for, that he did not deſign, he ſhould lie there above a Week; and ſo giving him twenty five Piſtoles, bid him go about his Buſineſs. I have related this Story, that my Countrymen from hence may reflect with Pleaſure upon their own Happineſs. In *England*, the meaneſt Man is protected by the Laws of his Country, in as ſecure a Manner as the greateſt among us. If one ſingle Perſon was *here* to be impriſon'd wrongfully, tho' for the ſhorteſt Time, I am confident every Body would reſent it, as an Infringement and Violation of the Liberties of the whole Nation; becauſe the wiſeſt and ableſt Miniſter ought never to be complimented with more Power over the Liberties of his fellow Subjects, than the Laws of this Conſtitution allow of: But when we conſider further the foregoing Story, and ſee a poor Man put in Priſon for a Song; how ought we to rejoyce, who have the full

full Freedom of the Press allow'd us! Here, no Minister, tho' he has never so little Wit, can use another Body ill for having it. What a Happiness is it, that in this Country, even in the worst of Times, no one has ever presumed to take away the Liberty of the Press? On it depends, in a great Measure, the Liberty of the People. 'Tis by this Means, that Truth makes its Way into the World: By this the People sooner or later come to inform their Judgments, in Relation to all the important Events, which happen in the World; and by this Means even a Prince may know, what otherways might be industriously conceal'd from him.

For my Part, it has been a constant Maxim with me, never to form any determin'd Opinion, or any great Events relating to the Benefit or Detriment of this Country, till the *Vox Populi* has decided upon it. For this Reason, I cannot take upon me to say, whether the Disgrace of those Ministers, we have heard of Abroad, is sufficient to confirm our Security, or whether there are not still some left in Power, in other Courts, as dangerous to us in a more mysterious Conduct, as *Ripperda* could have been in all his Wantonness of Power: But this I dare affirm; and it is the undoubted Privilege of an *Englishman*, that he may tell Truth with Impunity, if he is inclin'd to it; and need not believe a Lye, unless he has a Mind to it, tho' it was told him by the greatest Man in the Kingdom.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 28. *Monday, June* 13, 1726.

MY Poet has recommended the following Piece, as a Performance which deſerves the Attention of all Mankind; wherefore I have ordered all other Things to be poſtpon'd, to make way for ſo juſt and ſo moving a Complaint.

To the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

SIR, *June* 10, 1726.

'IF the following Attempt be worth your Ac-
'ceptance, I beg the Favour of you to pub-
'liſh it for the Benefit of thoſe Savages, who have
'forfeited their Humanity in being ill Huſbands,
'and let any Perſon have more of their Company
'than their Wives. There are ſome particular
'Paſſages in the Original, which could make no
'Figure in Poetry, and you will find one Part in
'this Imitation, I have taken the Liberty entirely
'to add myſelf; tho' I hope it will appear no ways
'forc'd: Such as it is, by preſenting it the Town,
'you will oblige, *Sir*,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

A. N.

The

The Letter publiſh'd in the Lay-Monaſtery, Numb. 13. *imitated. Inſcrib'd to Mrs.* S. H.

Nec Verbum Verbo curabis reddere, fidus
Interpres.------ Hor.

SInce I, thy Wife, thy Friend, no more prevail,
Since ſecret Prayers, and private Counſels fail,
Theſe Lines, the Language of my Soul, I ſend
To thee, my All, my Huſband---once my Friend.
Thoſe long-lov'd Words call forth my Sighs anew,
And double every Grief by naming you.

I know Heav'n gave thee an extenſive Mind,
And made thy Nature affable and kind;
Thy Life ran forward in the pureſt Line,
Bleſt all thy Thoughts! and proſper'd each Deſign!
For Wealth, for Honour, was thy Name renown'd,
And Grace divine thy bright Perfections crown'd:
Nor theſe could ſatiate yet, thy craving Breaſt
Whoſe Love was wanting to compleat the reſt,
Her Soul you aſk'd, and, aſking it poſſeſt.

By plighted Hands our mutual Oaths were paid,
Whilſt Angels witneſs'd to the Vows we made;
With Looks that ſpoke a Paſſion void of Art,
Theſe Arms conſtrain'd thee to my ſwelling Heart:
Then, as I gaz'd on that endearing Face,
To the ſtrong Rapture all my Fears gave place;
Thy Charms a Father's, Mother's Smiles ſupply'd;
And ev'ry Comfort I cou'd wiſh beſide.
This Love you anſwer'd with an equal Flame,
No Words ſo grateful as thy Conſort's Name;
Your Neck reclining on her Breaſt repos'd,
As various Talk each happy Evening clos'd.

Oft as the Sun now ſhot a weſtern Ray,
Declining downwards to conclude the Day;
Hither thy learned Friends impatient came,
(Friends like thyſelf in Sanctity and Fame)
In this poor Hall a kind Reception found,
And thou, my Dear, the Conſiſtory crown'd.
Of Nature's Laws the ſage Diſpute begun,
Whence ſecret Springs in latent Currents run?

If

If Suns above, or genial Earth below,
Call forth the Plants and give the Buds to blow?
Whence ſome, peculiar, love the ſultry Glade;
And die, tranſplanted to the cooler Shade?
To Man, at length, th' inſtructive Conf'rence turn'd;
(My fervent Heart at ev'ry Period burn'd)
How 'tis, the Soul ſuch inward Paſſions knows?
Why with his ripening Years his Reaſon grows?
Blooms with his Body, and decays with thoſe.
When, ſpent, and wearied with diurnal Pain,
The ſtiffen'd Nerves no more their Charge ſuſtain:
(His Eyes in Slumber ſeal'd, with Cares oppreſs'd)
The Mind nor aſks, nor wants a Moment's Reſt:
To diſtant Realms on fancy'd Pinnions flies,
And vig'rous ſoars thro' viſionary Skies;
Why glooms, or ſmiles th' imaginary Scene,
Whence ſprings this Pow'r, where dwells the Pow'r unſeen?

Thus were thy former Years in Wiſdom ſpent,
Divine thy Days, nor knew what Folly meant:
The Talk, where'er I came, of all I knew,
Then ſprang and center'd in the Praiſe of you.
But, Oh! how chang'd! how tranſient was my Joy!
What diff'rent Thoughts my penſive Soul enploy!
By thy perverted Life too ſoon I know
The ſhort-liv'd Bloom of flatt'ring Bliſs below;
The fruitleſs Pow'r of ever-ſtreaming Eyes,
And ſad Experience makes me dearly wiſe.
Let Death, or Writing, eaſe my lab'ring Breaſt,
(This gives a dubious, that a certain Reſt)
So ſhould my Soul, unbounded, bear away,
And ſnatch ſome Seat amidſt eternal Day:
Thence, bending forward, o'er the Clouds reclin'd,
Behold with Tranſport, what I left behind,
Freed from ſuch Woes below, ſuch Joys in Heav'n to find.

Deluded Woman! ah! theſe Thoughts reſtrain,
A Wretch like thee to tread th' etherial Plain!
Quit this lethargic Scene, 'tis all a Dream,
Still, Earth thy Manſion, ſtill, a Spouſe thy Theme.
To faithful Lines, the laſt Reſource, I fly,
(While rolling Tears the Characters ſupply)

With

With gentle Strokes his Vices to controul,
And ſteal Attention 'till I win the Soul.
How ſoon! too ſoon the pious Warmth decay'd,
More ſlight Impreſſions now Religion made,
And gradual Charms familiar Vice diſplay'd:
From Place to Place, from Sin to Sin he flies,
And craves Pollution with impatient Eyes:
Loſt, and undone! unhappy Woman ſtill,
From an own Huſband taught, that *Man is prone to Ill.*
Yet unregarded roll his Hours away,
Licentious Revels waſte the Night and Day:
He crowns the Goblet with immod'rate Wine,
And, loudly ranting, dares the Pow'rs divine:
In ſome baſe Strumpet's Arms, entranc'd, he lies,
And there, by Choice, ye Heav'ns prevent it! dies.
O'er the chill Embers here thy Wife remains,
And feels of Guilt, but not her own, the Pains;
One glimm'ring Taper's melancholy Light
Beholds me, watching each returning Night;
On yonder Clock the mounted Hand I ſee,
Then Pity, more than Pity, pray for thee.
Frequent, my Dear, at Midnight's awful Gloom,
While ſolemn Silence reigns around the Room,
Erect and trembling in my Bed I groan,
You, drown'd in Wine, a Stranger to my Moan:
Start at thy ſtarting Dreams, and broken Sleep,
And penſive ſtill, the ſilent Vigil keep:
Hour after Hour, I count the ſtriking Bell,
Sighs following Sighs my lab'ring Boſom ſwell;
Tears with my Woes maintain an equal Pace,
Inceſſant falling down my furrow'd Face:
No Slumbers cloſe my ever-waking Eyes,
But Love, ſtrong Love, continu'd Grief ſupplies.
Now, cloſe to thee, I throw myſelf ſupine,
Weep at thy Side, and turn my Cheek to thine:
In Terror wrapt, preſage too near thy Death,
From the ſhort Heaves of intercepted Breath,
That ſtruggling, labour in thy panting Breaſt,
Now ſwelling flow, and now at once ſuppreſt,
Then from the Pillow raiſe my languid Head,
Hang o'er thy Boſom, and ſuſpect thee dead;

That

That Heav'n, incens'd, has ſnatch'd thy Soul away,
While foul with Guilt, and when of Wine the Prey.
Thus, thus, my Love, thy Wife the Night employs,
Sad Inſtance ſure, of matrimonial Joys!
Believe thou view'ſt me on my bended Knee,
(Worn bare with ſupplicating Grace for thee)
By Heav'n, and all th' eternal Pow'rs above,
Or by a Band as ſolemn, by thy Love,
Think, I conjure thee, and elude thy Fate,
E'er the ſad Iſſue prove thy Cares too late:
Or firſt, declare from whence this Frenzy came:
What Cauſe produc'd it, and what Wretch to blame.
Can Love remitted, or can Oaths forgot,
Stain my pure Spirit with ſo foul a Blot?
How's this, my Soul? What ſays that haſty Tongue?
Whither, ah! whither have my Sorrows run!
In Fear I firſt inſpect my former Days,
And Fear, if conſcious, latent Guilt betrays.
No Thought, no Pray'r, no Love my Boſom knew,
But as it ſprang from God, belong'd to you.
Fruit of our Bed, three tender Children roſe,
And can the fatal Cauſe be charg'd on thoſe?
Why wilt thou leave them wretched and forlorn,
Curs'd with a Life, and miſerably born.
My boding Heart foreſees the coming Age,
(What Woes, what Terrors will not Love preſage!)
When the poor Exiles round the World ſhall roam,
Naked, expos'd, and deſtitute of Home:
While pointing Crowds ſhall mock them as they go,
Smile at their Fortune, and enjoy their Woe.
Theſe ſhall to lateſt Times tranſmit thy Name,
Oh! dire Remembrance both of Guilt and Shame!
Shall propagate their Kind in After-times,
And Sons ſucceeding Sons ſhall curſe thy Crimes.
But if no Pity touch thy ſtubborn Mind,
For thoſe that dying, thou ſhalt leave behind:
If, nor thy Children, they, nor I, thy Wife,
Have Pow'r to change thy long-abandon'd Life;
Yet let ſome Thought for thee thyſelf prevail,
Our Int'reſts move, tho' other Means may fail;
What wilt thou do, when Age, and Want, and Shame
With Powers combin'd, at once aſſault thy Frame?

The

The Man, like you, inflexibly ſecure,
By Sin made wretched, by Profuſeneſs poor,
Thoſe Truths he once deſpis'd, ſhall own too late;
While ſome lament, but more deride his State.
Accept this Letter, read it o'er and o'er,
For this once finiſh'd, I ſhall write no more:
My tott'ring Hand but ſcarce the Pen ſuſtains,
And ſluggiſh Life moves fault'ring thro' my Veins;
Come, and ſupport my Head, revive my Heart;
Come, check my Groans, and aid my wretched Part:
From all thy Joys abſtract a Moment free,
And in that Moment deign to think on me.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 29. *Friday, June* 17, 1726.

Malus miniſter regii imperii pudor. SEN.

WHEN Men are under Misfortunes, they are apt to complain to all Perſons indifferently, without conſidering their Capacity of aſſiſting them. This I take to be the Reaſon, why the following Letter is directed to me from that fallen *Meteor*, the Duke *de Ripperda*, now Priſoner in the Caſtle of *Segovia* in *Caſtile*. I wiſh it may entertain my Readers, as much as it ſurprized me; but it being ſomething extraordinary for a Miniſter of *Spain* to addreſs himſelf to a private Gentleman in *England*, I thought the Novelty of the Caſe might render it a Matter of Curioſity.

SIR,

SIR,

'HAving had some Years ago the Honour of your Acquaintance at the *Hague*, and 'at that Time hearing from you the most exact 'Characters of several of your own Country-'men, (which I have found since to be experi-'mentally true) relying therefore upon your 'Justice and Impartiality in communicating this 'to the World, I take the Liberty to explain to 'you my Conduct, since I left my native Coun-'try, and have been employed in those Nego-'tiations for which I now suffer; not doubting 'but when Mankind shall see this Account pub-'lished in your Paper, they will give the great-'est Attention to it; and by this Means I shall 'not be so much wonder'd at, as I hear I am 'at present.

'I shall not trouble you with the Secret of 'my being advanced to be *Prime-Minister*, since 'all the World knows, that I had for some 'Time the sole Direction of the Affairs of the '*Spanish* Monarchy. In this high Situation, fol-'lowing the Example of my Predecessors, I put 'in practice every Thing that might enlarge my 'Revenues. I suffered no Gift or Grant to pass 'from his Majesty, but thro' my Hands; and 'as for Offices, I kept what I lik'd best in my 'own Family, and gave away the rest to such 'of my Creatures, as would say and do any 'Thing I would have them. I took care to 'feed these Animals with the choicest Morsels 'of the Nation, because I would have them al-'ways ready to assist me in all my Enterprizes. 'I cloathed them with Ornaments of all Colours, 'and loaded them with Honours, that they 'might reflect my Glory with the greater Lustre.

'I

'I truck'd Employments in the Church, for Suffrages; and never conſider'd any other Quality 'in any Eccleſiaſtic but his Pliancy. As for the 'ancient Laws and Ordinances of the Kingdom, I 'made 'em bend which way I would; and under 'the Colour of the public Good, ſometimes had 'them explain'd directly contrary to their firſt 'Meaning. If any Perſon was in an Office, whom 'I could not abſolutely confide in, if he were of 'that Conſequence, that I thought it adviſeable 'not to make an open Rupture with him, I choſe 'rather to ſink the Employment, under the Pre'tence of good Huſbandry, and Care of the pub'lic Revenues: By this Means I had an Opportu'nity of putting more Money in my own Pocket, 'and avoiding the Diſcovery in the Inquiſition of 'the public Accounts, which I alſo took care to 'perplex as much as I could. As for the Gran'dees, who valued themſelves for their ancient 'Nobility and Privileges, I weakened their Power, 'by enlarging their Number, and letting in only 'ſuch Men, as would bend to my Will, which I 'ſecur'd by Penſions and Employments. I took 'upon myſelf the Command of the Army, not 'thinking it ſafe to truſt any other Perſon with ſo 'much Power: And as for Men of Learning, I 'took as much Care as I could to ſuppreſs them, 'knowing them to be dangerous to my Deſigns, 'and too honeſt to be truſted with the Secrets of 'my Adminiſtration; and fearing alſo, that their 'Agreeableneſs might gain them Acceſs to my 'Maſter, which I could not think by any Means 'proper or ſafe. The Commonalty I always 'looked upon as Beaſts of Burden, and therefore 'conſidered them only as ſuch, by inventing new 'Taxes and Impoſts, to ſupport the Grandeur of 'the Crown, and fill my own Coffers. Thus did

'I triumph in an Exceſs of Power, and thought 'myſelf ſecure, becauſe none durſt complain of 'me with Impunity: But which Way I know not, '(for there are many Avenues to a Court) theſe 'Actions of mine have been repreſented to his Ma'jeſty to my Diſadvantage, and I ſuffer for that, 'which ſhould have been my Glory. If I have 'oppreſſed the People with Impoſitions and Taxes, 'his Majeſty had the Advantage of it: If I have 'waſted the public Treaſures, it was for the Ho'nour of my Maſter: If I ſtrain'd the Power of a 'Miniſter, ſtill I was a Servant to the King: But 'whatever my Fate is, this I am ſure I can ſay, 'there is nothing new in my Conduct; nor have I 'done more than *Sejanus*, *Tigellinus*, and many 'other Miniſters of old have done, not to men'tion *Mazarine*, *Louvois*, or others more modern, 'who, far from being diſgrac'd, have met with 'the higheſt Rewards for a parallel Adminiſtra'tion.

I am Yours,

RIPPERDA.

My Correſpondents increaſe ſo faſt upon me, that it will be impoſſible for me to anſwer all their Demands, in the Time they expect; but the preſent Letter is occaſioned by ſo epidemical an Evil, that I wiſh there could be ſome Stop put to it, it being now grown into Faſhion amongſt the Women to go to public Sales of Goods, not for what they want, but to ſee what they may have a mind to buy.

SIR,

'I Lived a Batchelor ſo long, that all my Friends 'believed I never would enter into the State of 'Matrimony. Indeed, the Pleaſure I took in get-

'ting Money and living alone at a ſmall Expence, 'made me not at all think of changing my Con-'dition: But there is a Fatality in all Things, ſo 'my unlucky Stars would have it, that being at '*Canterbury* about a Bargain of *Hops*, I came ac-'quainted with her, that is now my Wife. Her 'Mother being Executrix to the Perſon, whoſe 'Goods I bought, invited me to dine at her 'Houſe, where this young Creature's Behaviour 'and Aſpect ſo bewitched me, that I never could 'get her out of my Thoughts afterwards. Her 'Mother, you muſt know, is one of thoſe, who 'is called a notable Woman, and has bred her 'Daughter up to keeping Accounts, and under-'ſtanding how to make Bargains. This recon-'ciled my Thoughts to her as a Wife, thinking 'ſhe might be of Uſe to me in my own Affairs; 'and after a great Struggle with myſelf, I aſked 'her Mother's Conſent. Tho' there was ſome 'Diſproportion in our Years, yet my Circum-'ſtances were too good to be refuſed; ſo married 'I was, and for almoſt a Year, Matters went well 'enough; but of a ſudden, my Dear ſtarted out 'into the moſt unaccountable Extravagances in 'Life: for, being indiſpos'd myſelf, I left all 'Things to her Management, not doubting but 'ſhe would have gone on in the Methods I taught 'her: But to my great Surprize, ſhe has laid out 'a great Sum of Money in Things intirely uſeleſs, 'which ſhe juſtifies, by ſaying ſhe had them a 'Pennyworth. I thought I ſhould have run mad, 'when ſhe brought me the following Inventory, '*viz.*

3 Dozen of Amber Necklaces.

2 Suits of Armour, all but the right Gauntlet of one, and the Head-piece of another.

2 Hogſheads of Prunes.
6 Flageolets and a Baſs-Viol.
10 Croſs-Bows.
1 Nightrail of *Point de Veniſe, Thomas Aquinas.*
5 Elbow-Chairs.
4 Bedſteads conſiſting of one Ton of Timber.
1 Terreſtrial Globe.
1 Second-hand wooden Leg.
The whole Library of the Lord *L—n* deceaſed.
1 Pair of Skeletons, Male and Female.
The Reverſion, after two Lives, of Dr. *W——* Cockle-Shells. And,
A Couple of the largeſt Iron Cannon.

'Sir, I beg you will publiſh this Letter, that 'her Friends may have an Opportunity of ſeeing 'how ill ſhe uſes me, and, by that Means, per-'ſuade her to forbear that Extravagance, which 'will break the Heart of, *Sir*,

Your Humble Servant,

Humphrey Jobber.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 30. *Monday, June* 20, 1726.

Cupiditate pauca recte fiunt, circumſpectione plurima.
THEUCYD.

I WAS at the *Opera* ſome Time ago, with a Friend of mine, and before the Curtain was drawn up, I aſk'd him, *if there were any* Engliſh *Performers amongſt the Singers?* I was anſwer'd immediately by

by a Gentleman that ſtood near me; *No, Sir, they are all Foreigners*; upon which I bow'd and turn'd myſelf to my Friend, aſking him *how long generally the Performance was?* But my new Acquaintance would not give him Leave to tell me, but reply'd himſelf, *About two Hours and a Half:* I made another Bow, and then call'd my Friend by his Name: Says I, *Prithee*, Ned, *give me a Pinch of Snuff:* Here the ſtrange Gentleman opened a Box at both Ends, and aſk'd me, if *I choſe plain* Spaniſh, *or* Havanna? *I thank'd him, but told him, I never took any Thing but* Brazil: I found he was diſappointed with my Refuſal, and ſeem'd to be concern'd, that I would not be oblig'd to him.

I could not imagine what it was that made me ſo much the Object of this Gentleman's Care, and was touched with a ſecret Pleaſure, at the particular Reſpect he paid me. I therefore inquir'd of my Friend, when the *Opera* was over, *who this civil Perſon might be?* He told me, his Name was *Nick Pliant*, a Man of a pretty good Eſtate, but a little dipt. This Man (ſays he) I have known theſe five and thirty Years; he is the ſame in all Reigns and all Miniſtries; he bows to all the Men of Quality and Faſhion, never miſſes a Drawing-Room, and has a new Suit of Cloaths every Birth-Day; he's a very neceſſary Man in a Coffee-houſe, for he always carries about him two or three Sorts of the beſt Snuff; has a Caſe of Inſtruments with a little Gold-beaters Skin in his Pocket, gets all the News Papers by Heart, and knows the Names of every Man that comes there: You can't do him a greater Courteſy, than to whiſper your Demands in his Ear, which he always returns in the like Manner; this he conſtrues, as uſing him like a Man of Importance; but

God knows, I only do it in Favour of my Nose; for *Nick* happens not to have the Breath of a *Zephyr*: But, however, this Behaviour of mine has acquired me his greateſt Confidence; he conſults me upon the moſt important Occaſions of his Life, whenever he makes up a new Equipage, or wants a Pattern of Embroidery. He once had an Ambition of having a Place at Court, and mortgag'd his Eſtate to raiſe Money to purchaſe one, but whether he did not come up to the Price, or ſpoke to the wrong Man, I don't know how it was, but Nothing was done; and all he has to ſhew for the Money, is an old Bond of a Perſon deceas'd, that was related to a Nobleman, then in Favour, who had promis'd him his Aſſiſtance. When *Nick* is a little fluſtred with Wine, he ſhakes his Head at this Story, and was once heard to ſay, if he had his Money again, he would not lend it to any Courtier in *England*, though he begs all his Friends never to ſpeak of it, ſo cautious he is, of being thought ever to have ſuffer'd, in a Place where he employs the moſt important Hours of his Life. He had a conſiderable Match offer'd him, when he was a young Fellow, which he declin'd, becauſe the Father of the Lady reſign'd a conſiderable Employment, and follow'd the Fortune of a diſcarded Miniſter, who was his Patron; but *Nick* could not bear being abſent from Court, and had Vanity enough to think, that had he made this Alliance he ſhould have loſt all his Pretenſions there: In ſhort, this is a Place where all his Hopes center; all his Ambition is, that he ſhall one Time or other have a conſiderable Poſt; in the mean Time he has ſpent his Youth and Fortune in queſt of this imaginary Employment, and at preſent performs the Office of a daily Waiter.

This

This Letter being ſent by a Perſon of great Quality, I think myſelf highly honour'd in giving it a Place in this Paper.

SIR,

'I WAS very much pleas'd with the Cha-
'racter you give of a *Country Gentleman*, and
'am not aſhamed to own myſelf one in this
'Senſe; and that though in my Life-time, I
'have been concern'd in Affairs at Court, yet I
'never had any Views but the Honour of my
'Maſter, and the Service of my Country; nor in-
'deed, do I think any Man of Principle can ever
'divide this Thought. Mankind has run into
'a very great Miſtake in Reſpect to this Cha-
'racter, and would confine it to the Improve-
'ment of Lands, Attendance on Fairs and Mar-
'kets, Hunting, Preſervation of the Game,
'Meetings at the Quarter or Petty Seſſions.
'Theſe indeed, if I may be allow'd to diſtin-
'guiſh, may be the Employments of a *Gentle-*
'*man in the Country*: But as the Conſtitution of
'*England* is ſuch, that there is hardly any Body
'in the whole Nation, who has not by himſelf
'or his Repreſentative, ſome Share in the advi-
'ſing and making of Laws, and therefore is in
'ſome Senſe preſent, even in the Senate, I can-
'not but think, that the Man, who has an
'active Zeal in this Service, let him live where
'he will, may properly be call'd a *Country Gen-*
'*tleman* with us. I would not be underſtood
'to mean, that this Character is unalienable, or
'that thoſe People, who once were at the top of
'their Fame (tho' not their Grandeur, when
'they ſteadily purſued this Principle) may not
'by ſubſequent Acts of Violence, to ſupport
'Miſtakes in their Conduct, and Profuſion to

'ſuſtain that Violence, forfeit this glorious Cha-
'racter; on the Contrary, I am perſwaded, it
'may be poſſible for Men to fall into Abſurdities,
'and ſeduce others by ſpecious Pretences, or
'more powerful Temptations, to declare for the
'Practice, whatever they may privately think of
'the Projector.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

C.

Not knowing but it may be of the laſt Conſe-
quence to the Gentleman concern'd in the following
Epiſtle, to ſee his Conduct expos'd in Publick, I
have thought it proper to publiſh it as ſoon as I
could conveniently, and hope it may have the de-
ſired Effect.

SIR,

'AN Acquaintance of mine, a young Gen-
'tleman of good Family, Fortune, and one
'that hath had a liberal Education, hath, ſince
'his coming to Town, given ſuch a looſe to his
'Paſſions, that they have enſlav'd his Reaſon,
'and lead him into a great many Irregularities,
'which if not immediately put a Stop to, will, I
'am affraid terminate in his Ruin.

'His extraordinary Paſſion for the Ladies of
'the Town, becomes an additional Trouble;
'and tho' by his own Experience, theſe pretend-
'ed Pleaſures have been the Inlets of a thou-
'ſand ill Conſequences, yet they are ſo far from
'creating in him a loathſome Stomach, that in
'ſhort, all his Views and Deſires center in the
'Enjoyment thereof.—Had it not been for a

'particular

particular Friend, who interpos'd in the Nick of Time, he had the other Day, been noos'd into Matrimony with one of these Ladies. All his Acquaintance have been very sollicitous in contriving those Means, that have a Tendency to display his Folly in its true Light, to heal his wounded Mind, and bring him to a Sense of Honour; but to no Purpose; so now have Recourse to you, as the last Help left to rouse his lethargick Spirits, and make him sensible of his Errors. What you find amiss I hope you will alter, and give this a Place in your Paper, knowing you are always willing to lend a helping Hand to relieve the distress'd.

Your Constant Reader,

THO. FRIENDLY.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 31. *Friday, June* 24, 1726.

Astra regunt homines.

ARISTOTLE and his Followers, believ'd the Nature of the *Stars* to be evidently immutable; but latter Ages have made several Discoveries of *new Stars*, altogether unknown to the Antients, which after appearing for some Time with the greatest Lustre, have afterwards totally vanish'd, or disappear'd for a while, and afterwards reviv'd again. Thus in

in the Year 1572, a *large Star* arose in the Constellation of *Cassiopea*, never before taken Notice of, which growing by Degrees more and more obscure, after two Years was seen no more. In the Year 1600, another *new Star* appear'd in the Breast of the Constellation of *Cycnus*, which in about sixty Years, seemed to be entirely lost, and in six Years after, was seen again: In 1670, another new one was discover'd by *Joannes Hevelius* and others; and since that Time I don't hear, that there has been any Alteration in those remote Regions above *Saturn*.

Our modern Philosophers have therefore been very much imployed of late, in their Enquiries into the Nature and Causes of a *new Star*, * that has lately appear'd in the *West*; the like whereof (they say) has not been seen above these hundred Years; some of them ignorantly imagine it to be *Mercury*, who having made his *Transit* beyond the Sun, his whole Orb manifests itself to us with the greatest Splendor; and this they would endeavour to prove also, by his Influence on Mortals, who seem more inclin'd at present to those noxious Qualities (for which that heathen Deity was famous) than they were heretofore; but as this Conjecture is against all the Rules of Astronomy, so it is directly contrary to the Practice of Mankind; for Men were never known in all the Ages of the World, to act with more Honesty and Justice, than they do at present.

Others again, as foolishly suppose it to be a *Meteor*, or Exhalation from the Earth, of which Sort, there is a great Variety, and describ'd with the utmost Accuracy, by *Pliny*, in his second Book of *Natural History*, Cap. 26. Nay, some have not scrupled to say, that it is nothing but a *Will*

* W. Star.

a *Will in the Whisp*, or *Jack in the Lanthorn*, which often misleads Men into their own Destruction; but these Conjectures cannot possibly be true, because no *Meteor* was ever known to be of so long a Duration as this has been.

My *Antiquity Professor*, who is a Man of universal Learning, seems to give the most rational Account, who having peep'd at it a long Time through a Telescope, assures me, that it is some new *Comet*, whose periodical Motion could not be observ'd by our modern Philosophers; and he is confirm'd in this Opinion, by the prodigious Train, that this *Phænomenon* is always attended with; he farther informs me, that all the *natural Philosophers*, except *Aristotle*, and a few others, believ'd that *Comets* were *Planets*, which differ'd no otherwise, *than* in their Motion, occasion'd by the *Comets* describing larger *Ellipses*, or performing wider oblique Circles. How true this may be, I won't pretend to determine; but it has been a Notion almost as old as *Astrology*, that these uncommon Visitors, are generally the Forerunners of some extraordinary Calamity to those Countries where they make their first Appearance. Whether or no People have imbibed that philosophical Notion, that the excessive Heat, which a *Comet* gets from the Influence of the *Sun*, may not, in its near Approach to the Earth, draw up all its radical Moisture, and endanger its very Constitution; or, whether they understand it to be a *Signal* of the Divine Vengeance for such Crimes, as they are conscious deserve the severest Chastisement; be it which Way it will, they imagine it portends Nothing but Destruction to Mankind, and they always pray for its Disappearance: But whatever gloomy Thoughts this extraordinary *Phænomenon* may Occasion in the

Minds

Minds of my Countrymen, it is the Duty of my *Office*, to set this Matter in a true Light; and I don't doubt, but by this Means, I shall free them from all those Apprehensions, which possess their Thoughts with unnecessary Fears, and make them behold this Object with as little Concern, as they see any of the ordinary Operations of Nature. I must observe to them by the Bye, that the profound Philosopher, and ever to be admired Mathematician Sir *Isaac Newton*, is of an of Opinion, that no *Comets* ever climb above the Region of *Saturn*; from whence we may be sure, that they are not of the Nature of *fixed Stars*. Another Thing is, that they generally make the greatest Shew at their going off, which happens when they approach near the *Vortex* of the *Sun*, which looks as if this great *Luminary* had call'd 'em to an Account for their Irregularities and Wanderings, and then disgraced them. But not to weary my Readers any longer with these *astronomical* Observations, I shall only observe to them, that these Appearances are nothing new, and they only make a Figure, while they are in a high Situation, and press upon the *Vortexes* of other *Planets*. How many of us are there that have sat close to 'em (after they have run out their Period) at the *Opera* and *Playhouse*, without knowing they were near us? Nay, so far are they from doing Harm, that I myself have seen one of them kept in the *Tower*, and shewn amongst the Rarities of that ancient Palace. I hope this is sufficient to suppress those Alarms, which disturb weak Minds, who are too apt to imagine that those Things, who are above them, have more Power to hurt them than they really have; and it must be an additional Satisfaction to them, that the GUARDIAN of our Lives and Properties governs

verns with that conſummate Juſtice, that he who acts uprightly has nothing to be affraid of.

Since my entring on this Employment, I have received a great many Letters of different Purports, but more of Huſbands and Wives complaining againſt one another, than of any other Kind. The following Epiſtle is of the firſt Sort.

SIR, *Jonathan's Coffee-houſe, June* 22.

'I AM one of thoſe, who by my own Induſtry, got a plentiful Eſtate in the Year 1720, 'and having a Mind (as I thought) to better myſelf by an Alliance, marry'd into a Gentleman's 'Family at the other End of the Town. I never 'deſired any Fortune with my Wife, concluding 'by ſo generous a Behaviour, ſhe might not only 'like me the better, but think herſelf obliged to 'look after the Affairs of my Family: Now, Sir, 'though I allow pretty handſomely for Houſe-'keeping, Cloaths, and Pocket-Money, yet am 'I eternally plagued with Tradeſmen's Bills. I 'have often aſk'd her the Reaſon of this Manage-'ment, and all the Anſwer I can get, is, that 'ſuch a Day ſhe loſt five Pounds at a Game 'call'd, the *Lottery*; and at another Time, fifteen 'and three Quarters at *Quadrille*. Why, Sir, I 'thought there had been an Act of Parliament a-'gainſt *Lotteries*, and *Bubbles*; and as for *Qua-'drille*, I never heard on't before. I'm ſure Mr. '*Caſtaing*'s never mention'd it in his Paper. I 'ſuppoſe, it is ſome *Bubble* you have got a-'mong yourſelves at the other End of the 'Town. I ſhould be glad to ſubſcribe, if you 'think there is any Probability of its riſing. I 'wiſh you would be ſo good to let me know; 'for ſhe is always in a Paſſion when I ſpeak to

'her

'her about it,——for my Part, I don't know 'where it will end——it has coſt me a great deal 'of Money——I dare not complain to her Rela-'tions for fear of worſe Uſage.——Perhaps a 'Line from you may do ſome Good, to

Your unfortunate humble Servant,

TIM. STOCKWELL.

I ſhall take Mr. *Stockwell*'s Caſe into Conſide-tion, as ſoon as I hear from his Lady.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 32. *Monday, June* 27, 1726.

Neſcia mens hominum eſt, fatique ignara futuri,
Et ſervare modum rebus ſublata ſecundis.

THE Downfall of two of the moſt power-ful Miniſters, in two of the greateſt Kingdoms in *Europe*, happening ſo un-expectedly, and in ſo ſhort a Period of Time from their firſt Elevation, has rais'd the Attention and Enquiry of moſt People into the Cauſes of their Diſgrace. Let the buſy World go on in its Search, and form to itſelf a thouſand Reaſons, which never had any Foundation: For my Part, I fear I have not Authority enough to be believ'd, when I tell my Countrymen, that Ambition, unbounded Ambition, and inſatiable Avarice, were the Rocks theſe two great Men

ſplit

ſplit upon, while under the full Sail of their Power and ſeeming Proſperity.

But before I venture to explain myſelf, as to the particular Motives, that determined their Ruin, I ſhall look back a little into our *Engliſh* Hiſtory, and point out a few Miniſters, who under all the Favour of their Princes, enjoy'd a vaſt, yet lawful Income, whoſe Employments, from their very Nature, afforded an extenſive Power; yet not contented with all theſe Advantages, as if the Title to Wealth and Dominion was peculiar to them alone, they graſp'd at ſo much, as alarm'd Mankind, and made it neceſſary for their ſeveral Maſters to withdraw their Protections, and leave their Conduct to be explained by the Laws, which they had ſo monſtrouſly violated.

I ſhall begin with *Woolſey*, whoſe Story is ſo well known, that the bare Mention of his Name, will revive in my Readers Mind, a Miniſter in the utmoſt Favour of a Prince, whom the Compliance of Parliaments had render'd in a Manner abſolute: But his immenſe Revenues, nor his Oppreſſions, the certain Conſequences of the Extent of his Power, did not make him the Object of his Prince's Diſpleaſure. But when this Favourite oppoſed the private Views of his own Ambition (in Reſpect to the Papal Dignity) to his Maſter's Will and Pleaſure; the Diſcovery of this Intrigue, blew up that mighty Machine, and in a Moment he was diveſted of all that Wealth, which he had been accumulating ſo many Years, and became an Object of Contempt and Deriſion.

The next great Man I ſhall take Notice of, is, my Lord *Bacon*; this Man was Lord Chancellor of *England*; but a Man of that extenſive Knowledge and prodigious Capacity, beſides that great Application to Study, that one would wonder

how

how Avarice ſhould find a Place in ſuch a Mind: But even this great Perſon (whom we cannot look upon without Amazement, when we conſider how much Superior he was to the Generality of Mankind) was not free from the Contagion of Bribery, which he confeſs'd himſelf in a very elegant Speech, when he was under the Accuſation of the Commons in the Houſe of Lords.

The Third I ſhall mention, is the Earl of *Middleſex*, Lord-Treaſurer, impeach'd by the Houſe of Commons in King *James* the Firſt's Time, for Bribery and Extortion, *&c.* It ſeemed, the Fact of Bribery appeared, and was proved in ſeveral Inſtances, of Money illegally taken by his Servant *Jacob*, for his Uſe; but perhaps my Readers will be better ſatisfied in Relation to this great Man, if I mention to them part of the Argument of the great Lawyer Sir *Edward Coke*, one of the Managers againſt this Miniſter; he begins by preſſing upon him the three Oaths he had taken, as Maſter of the Wards, as Privy-Counſellor, and Lord-Treaſurer. As to the firſt, *You ſhall well and truly ſerve the King and People.* He did not ſo, he deceived the King, and oppreſſed the People. *Secondly*, the Oath as Privy-Counſellor, *You ſhall honeſtly, juſtly, and duly Counſel the King.* He acted directly contrary, by adviſing the King to act againſt his Word and his Covenant. *Thirdly*, as Treaſurer, *You ſhall well and truly ſerve the King and People.* He doth not ſo, that denies or delays the Subject, for every Delay is a Denial, and it is an old Maxim in the Law, *Nulli vendemus, nulli negabimus, nulli differemus juſtitiam.*

The additional Charge againſt this great Man is, that when he undertook the Office of the Wardrobe, in the 16th Year of his Majeſty's Reign,

Reign, under Pretence of doing his Majesty special Service; he obtain'd a certain Assignment of 20,000 *l. per Annum*, but he, since that Time, has brought that Place into Disorder and Confusion, not having duly serv'd the Warrants, which he should have served, and hath not paid the Workmen and Creditors, neither kept orderly Accounts, nor yielded any; but under Colour of pretended Service of great Importance, hath procured Gifts and Discharges for great Sums of Money, which he receiv'd for the Execution of that Place. I shall trouble my Reader with no more of this Man, than the Judgment of the Lords upon him, *viz.* That he, for Bribery, Extortions, Oppressions, and other grievous Misdemeanors, should lose all the Offices he holds in this Kingdom; and shall be made for ever hereafter incapable of any Office, Place, or Employment in the State and Commonwealth; that he shall be imprisoned in the *Tower*, during the King's Pleasure, and fined to the King 50,000 *l.* that he shall never sit more in Parliament, nor come within the Verge of the Court.

I have often wonder'd how a Man can attempt the Integrity of a Minister, who is inrich'd by his Prince's Favour, and seems to want Nothing, that the World can afford; for certainly if he does, or does not succeed, in having his Bribe accepted, the Minister can draw no other Conclusion from this Transaction, but that the Person, who offers it, takes him for a Rogue. But then on the other Hand, my Wonder ceases, when I consider how often it is, that a Rogue makes the Offer, and concluding all Men like himself, he thinks such a Temptation irresistable, This puts me in Mind of a Story of a different Sort, than what I have mention'd before, which I but imperfectly re-

remember. I think it was of *Oliver Cromwell*, who after having in vain, offered a *Spaniſh* Miniſter a conſiderable Preſent, he bethought himſelf of a Stratagem to bring about his Deſign, by removing this honeſt Man from the King's Confidence, and by this Means, having a Chance to find the next more ſuſceptible. In Order to carry on this Affair, he ſent a dextrous Artiſan, who got the Impreſſion of the Key of that Cloſet, where the King and this Miniſter were uſed to meet upon Buſineſs. The Fellow made another Key by this Model, which gave them eaſy Admittance into this Cloſet, by the Aſſiſtance of one of the under Servants. The Uſe *Oliver* made of this, was to have a Letter dropt in the Room, directed to the Miniſter, with an Account, that in ſuch a Port of *Spain*, ſuch a Ship was arrived with a certain Sum of Money, and other Commodities of great Value, deſiring him at the ſame Time, to ſend ſome Body to receive them. It happened, the King coming there next Day before the Miniſter, diſcovered the Letter, and concluding, that the other had dropt it by Chance, and that he was privy to it, he immediately ſent to the Port, where the Arrival of the Ship, the Sum of Money, and Quality of the Goods agreeing with the Contents of the Letter, made him no longer doubt, but his Miniſter was guilty; whereupon he immediately diſmiſs'd him. This indeed, was a fine Stratagem, but hazardous; therefore, in all theſe Caſes, it is ſurer to make the Temptation ſo great, that the Miniſter cannot withſtand it. Let *Bourbon* and *Ripperda* tell you the Reſt.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 33. *Friday, July* 1, 1726.

—Bilem aut riſum fortaſſe quibuſdam
Moverat, ut mendax Aretalogus.

JUV. Sat. 15.

OF all the Animals in the World, there is not any one ſo miſchievous as a Lyar, becauſe there is no Poſſibility of defending ones ſelf againſt the Wounds he gives. The Influence of a lying Tongue is like the Operation of white Powder, which kills without betraying the Murderer. 'Tis finely ſaid ſomewhere, 'That no Man is of ſo diſingenuous a Nature, as 'to own himſelf a Lyar; for if Modeſty do not 'reſtrain him, his Malice will, ſince to confeſs, 'would be to defeat his Deſign.'

Indeed, it is not hard to conceive the Malignity of a Monſter, who is the Offspring of Malice and Envy. He would ſuffer no Body to live, but the Refuſe of the Creation, and indiſcriminately points his Arrows at Valour, Wiſdom, and Virtue. In his Eyes, it is a Crime either to be fortunate or meritorious; and what is very unaccountable, he runs into Company at the ſame time that he would deſtroy all ſocial Virtues. Methinks, 'tis ſtrange, that a Man ſhould take Pains to convince you, that he lies, when he would endeavour to cut your Throat if you ſhould tell him ſo. Yet, *Jack Bounce* is never eaſy upon the Level of Probability. He

wants to mount higher, and go beyond the reſt of his Company in Things extraordinary.

If any Man has had any ſudden Good-Fortune, *Jack* accounts for it his own Way; and if he has no remarkable Faults of his own, he tells you his Uncle was a *Taylor*, or his Grandfather an *Inn-keeper*. It is always a Comfort to him if any thing is wrong or mean in his Conduct, or that of his Family. This he improves to what Size he pleaſes, without either Regard to Honeſty or good Manners; and if that won't do, his Invention ſupplies him with Dirt enough to beſpatter the beſt Character in the World. *An odd Sort of Thievery this, to take away from a Man what he has, by giving him that which does not belong to him.* If a Perſon is of an eſtabliſhed Character of Merit, and but in low Circumſtances, 'tis *Jack*'s ſtanding Comfort that he is poor. He has a thouſand merry Things to ſay upon Poverty, all which he applies to him, and won't ſcruple to own at any Time (if there is any Doubt) that he was an Eye-Witneſs to them. Some Men lye out of Envy, becauſe they cannot bear a ſuperior Object; others, out of Modeſty, to cover or extenuate a Fault; but this Quality runs thro' his whole Compoſition, and poſſeſſes all the Man. He goes no where but he tells you he has ſeen ſomething unaccountable. Every Day he produces ſome new Wonder; and if you will believe him, his whole Life has been a Series of Miracles. If one of his Company relates any Thing extraordinary, he always goes beyond it. He often puts me in mind of a Man, *that clinch'd the Nail, that another had driven thro' the Moon:* Nay, this Vice is ſo rooted in him, that he often gives *himſelf* the *Lye*, and has been heard to ſay, that if Juſtice had been done to his Merit, he had had one of the moſt conſiderable Poſts in the Government. Now,

tho'

tho' *Jack* be a Man of a very moderate Underſtanding, he knows he has had more Favour than he deſerves, and that the Kindneſs which has been ſhewn him, has not been the Price of his Merit, but the Miſtake of his Benefactor: But I ſhall leave this Animal to the Torment of his own Thoughts, to ſpeak of ſome more of the ſame Species, tho' not ſo miſchievous. The firſt is, a Fellow that takes delight in impoſing upon the Underſtanding of another, and always cheats you, becauſe you give him credit. This Man is diſtinguiſh'd by the Name of a *Biter*. The other is often a good-natur'd Creature, who only tells Lyes for Want of Wit. There are a great many of this Species at all Tea-Tables, and Houſes which keep Viſiting-Days. This Man means no more than to entertain the Company, and at the ſame time to appear conſiderable; for there is always a little Pride attending the Mind of a Perſon, who thinks the World believes, he knows more than another. This Man always takes care, that his Lye ſhall be probable, and very often confirms his Story by ſaying, he knows it to be Fact. But the merrieſt of all theſe, is he, who has no manner of Regard to the Appearance of Truth, but brings thoſe Images together, which no Mortal ever attempted before: He ſcorns to deceive you with a Lye, and is only diſappointed if he thinks you ſuppoſe he meant to ſpeak Truth. I happened to be in Company with one of theſe Men t'other Day, when after ſome Body had aſk'd him, How he came to loſe one of his Fingers, he told us the following Story:

Some Years ago, I had the Honour to have a ſmall Command in the *Poliſh* Army, at a Time when there was a War declared between the *Poles* and the *Ruſſians*. It happened that about the Month of *Auguſt*, the two Armies met near the

Woods of *Smolenſko*, and as the *Ruſſians* were very much ſuperior to us in Numbers, our Generals, after a ſharp Diſpute, for about two Hours, thought fit to retire about two Miles from the Place of Battle. In this Engagement, I, with ſeveral others of my Nation were taken Priſoners; and being Foreigners, I don't know how the Devil it came into the *Ruſſian* General's Head, but he ordered us to be put ſeparately into large Caſks, which accordingly was executed, and there we lay barrel'd up, by the Side of the Wood, for ſeveral Hours. Towards the Evening the wild Beaſts came out of the Foreſts to look for Prey, and I could diſcern thro' the Bunghole of my wooden Priſon, a Wolf of a terrible Aſpect, and an extraordinary Size, to make towards me. I can't ſay it was poſſible for a Creature that had any Noſe at all to miſs me in the Condition I was in; and accordingly this fierce Animal rolled the Caſk about in Hopes to find ſome Way to come at me, but after many vain Attempts to ſtorm my little Fort, Fortune directed this Monſter's Tail into the Bunghole. I was reſolved to lay hold on the Occaſion, and faſtening both my Hands in the Shag of it, I cry'd out *Hollo*, as loud as ever I could; the frighted Beaſt run as if the Devil was in him, and carried me, Caſk and all, into the very Camp of the *Poles*, who you may be ſure were very much ſurpriſed and glad to ſee me. *It was in this Struggle, Ladies*, ſaid he, *that I loſt my middle Finger.*

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 34. *Monday, July* 4, 1726.

Unus ait comitum, verumne? itane? Perſ.

IT is an Obſervation in *Philoſophy*, that there are no *Chaſms* or Gaps in the Order of Nature; but from the lifeleſs Mineral to the animated Being of Man, the Gradations are ſo perceptible, that a *Plant* has been diſcovered to be a *ſenſible Creature*; and what near Approaches a Beaſt makes to a reaſonable Soul, muſt have been obſerved by every Body. *Simiæ quam ſimilis, turpiſſima beſtia nobis:* And this Remark is not only true in reſpect of the ſeveral Species of Beings, but even amongſt Men we may diſcern a manifeſt Subordination, from the ſtupid *Beau* who is only intent upon one Object, to the painful *Mathematician*, who ſtretches his Mind beyond the Limits of the Univerſe. 'Tis a Matter of Aſtoniſhment to think, that ſince Knowledge gives that Pre-eminence and Dignity to Mankind, there ſhould be ſo many, who have leiſure to apply themſelves in the Purſuit of it, yet ſit down ſatisfied in a State of Ignorance, and know little more than the Horſe that carries them. I am led into this Thought by ſeeing a Gentleman of a good Eſtate, who happened to come where I was t'other Day; and one of the Company having taken Notice how ſoon *Alberoni* and *Ripperda* had run over their Courſe, this forward Youth immediately offered to

bet, *That he would bring an* Engliſh *Horſe, that ſhould beat any one of them ſeven Heats, for a thouſand Pounds*; ſo little did this Man know of public Affairs, that he took two of the *Prime Miniſters* of *Spain* for a Couple of Running Horſes. The Oddneſs of this Propoſal, and the Earneſtneſs with which it was delivered, ſet all the Company a laughing, and what too often happens, encouraged another Perſon, of an Underſtanding not much ſuperior, to triumph over him, by telling an unaccountable Piece of News, that the *Imperial* and *Ruſſian* Fleets *were joined, and had attack'd our Fiſhing-Boats.* This ſimple Story, however, had the Effect that was expected, and our young Gentleman reply'd with the utmoſt Serioufneſs, *Is it poſſible? Indeed I always thought there was not Care enough taken of our Fiſhery:* The Laughter that reviv'd again, upon this freſh Abſurdity, was ſo far from making him think that he was ridiculous, that he ſaid very gravely, *he wonder'd how People could be ſo merry, when the Nation was in ſo much Danger!* I muſt own, this Accident made a different Impreſſion on me, from what it did upon the reſt of the Company; and I was touch'd with a ſecret Compaſſion for a Man, who expreſſed that generous Concern for the Good of his Country, let the Occaſion be what it may; and could not help reflecting, that if ſuch a Nature had the Advantages of a good Education, it might have made a Figure in the Senate, and have been of real Uſe to the Commonwealth. How many brave Spirits have we, that lie entomb'd under the Rubbiſh of ruſtic Breeding? who, had the Seeds of Virtue and Honour been cultivated in their Minds, would have been the true Repreſentatives of the *Britiſh* Nation, and prevented the fatal Effects of Corruption, which formerly has ſo far diſgrac'd our Con-

Conſtitution, that even our modern Hiſtorians have not ſcrupled to take notice of a *penſionary Parliament* in a former Reign. How monſtrous muſt it appear in our Hiſtory, that the Repreſentatives of the Nation had a divided Intereſt from the People? and what an everlaſting Reproach muſt it be to our *Annals*, to have it remembred, that in one Reign, our Country was (as it were) drench'd in Blood, for the Cauſe of Liberty, and in the very next, to have its Repreſentatives branded with the infamous Name of *Penſioners?* But this could never have been but through the Influence of *wicked Miniſters*, who would rather ſacrifice the Conſtitution, than not juſtify their Errors, and violate the ſacred Obligation of their Truſt, than not increaſe their Power. 'Tis very remarkable, that in *England*, no Men have ſtrain'd their Authority ſo high as thoſe, who from an ordinary Situation of Life, have been advanc'd to the moſt conſiderable Poſts of the Government; as may be inſtanc'd in *Woolſey*, *Cromwell*, Earl of *Eſſex*, *Buckingham*, and others. The Luſtre of their Office dazzles their Eyes, and not being us'd to Dominion, they loſe themſelves in the wide Space of their Ambition. I can't help thinking, but many of thoſe Princes, who have diſhonoured the ſacred Name of Empire, might have been the Glory and Bleſſing of their People, had they not been miſled by the Pride and Avarice of their Servants, who have often deceived their Maſters, and extended the Prerogative only to cover their own Crimes. How tender then ought we to be of the Reputation of Princes? and how becoming is it for an honeſt Mind to ſeparate the *Genius* of a King from the Tranſactions of his Miniſters? as may be obſerved in two Inſtances, in *Harry* the 8th's Reſentment of the imperious Conduct of *Woolſey*, which may be ſeen in the 163d,

and

and the 222d Pages of my Lord *Herbert*'s Hiſtory of *Henry* VIII. too long to be inſerted here; and many other more modern Accounts in our *Engliſh* Hiſtory. Indeed, when we conſider the Situation of a Prince, ſurrounded only with ſuch Creatures as are dependant upon his firſt *Miniſter*, and conſequently has only ſuch Informations as are agreeable to his wicked Purpoſes, we cannot wonder, that the Catalogue of Kings and Emperors, ſhould have produced ſo many Tyrants: And from this Obſervation we can never too much admire our own Happineſs, who have a Prince on the Throne, who, (to uſe the Expreſſions of *Pliny*) 'is poſſeſs'd 'of all thoſe great Talents, which are required for 'the Government of Land and Sea, and the Ma-'nagement of Peace and War. Other Princes 'have ſhined in War, and afterwards grown ruſty 'in Peace: Another has gained Honour in the 'Senate, but loſt it again in his Armour: One has 'frown'd his Subjects into an awful Reſpect; an-'other has inſinuated himſelf into their Affections, 'and won their Souls by little popular Arts: A 'public Miſcarriage has robbed one of the Credit 'of his happy Management in private; another by 'a Misfortune at Home, has ſully'd that Glory, 'which he bravely gained abroad: But in our 'Prince, what unclouded Rays of Glory meet! 'What an unallayed Mixture of all that is com-'mendable! His Affability takes not away, in the 'leaſt, from his royal Port and Grandeur; his 'obliging Freedom treſpaſſes not at all on his be-'coming Gravity; nor does his Candour and Con-'deſcention diminiſh the Reſpect he deſerves, or 'leſſen the Dues of his Majeſty. Add to this, 'the Dignity of his Aſpect, the Perfection of being 'in the full Enjoyment of a ſound Health in an ad-'vanced Age. In how ample, in how diffuſive

'and

'and glorious a Light, do all theſe concurring 'Ornaments and Advantages ſhew forth and mani- 'feſt our Prince? And ſuch indeed ought he to 'be, who mounted the Throne not through a 'Scene of Blood, and obtain'd the Crown, not by 'Rapine and Maſſacre, but by the calm Mercy of 'appeaſed Heaven, and the innocent Method of 'an univerſal Conſent. Time may be ſaid to have 'been upon the Watch, and Opportunity to have 'waited for you, in order to make it clearly ma- 'nifeſt, that in your accepting of the Crown, you 'did not, ſo much receive, as confer a Benefit: 'You was called from foreign Countries, implored 'and importuned to be our ſupreme Governor, 'and when the Meſſenger arrived with the Tidings 'of your Succeſſion to the Crown, it plainly ap- 'peared, that in your Heart you had rather have 'remained what you was before; but happily for 'us, you was not in that Point at your own Li- 'berty. But how happy, how glorious was that 'Day, when you firſt made your public Entry 'into this City! How ſurprizing, how pleaſing 'was the Sight! Therefore neither Age nor In- 'firmity, nor Sex, reſtrained the People from 'coming to feaſt their Eyes on ſo noble an Object: 'Little Children were brought forth to ſee you; 'the young Men gloried in you, the old Men ad- 'mired you; even the Sick, negligent of the 'Phyſician's Order, crept into your Preſence, as 'if there, and there alone, they were to find their 'Health, and ſecure their Recovery. Some ſaid, 'they had lived long enough, ſince they had lived 'to ſee you: Others wiſh'd for a Prolongation of 'Life, becauſe now was the happy Time to wiſh 'to live in: Women took new Delight in being 'Mothers, and conceiv'd Pleaſures unfelt before 'in being fruitful, when they beheld for what a

'Prince

'Prince they had born freſh Subjects.' But that which adds moſt to your Character is, that Time produces a Continuance of our Affections, from the Proſpect of a Continuation of our Felicity.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 35. *Friday, July* 8, 1726.

Parturiunt montes naſcitur ridiculus mus.

THERE is nothing ſo unreaſonable as the Vanity of an Author. When I firſt undertook this Paper, I did not in the leaſt doubt, but that the Demand for it would run ſo high, that I ſhould be enabled out of the Profits, to afford a comfortable Maintenance to ſeveral ingenious Gentlemen of low Fortunes, who aſſiſted me in carrying on this great and laudable Undertaking; and becauſe I knew the Power of Prejudice, and how many very moderate Performances had been received by the Town, only from an unaccountable Inclination and Partiality to the Authors, therefore I could not poſſibly ſuſpect, but I ſhould have an equal Indulgence, eſpecially when I came recommended by ſo conſiderable a Perſon as myſelf, and I had the greater Expectation, becauſe I had given ſo many handſome Penſions to ſeveral faſhionable Ladies, to cry me up in all Places; an Artifice more likely to prevail, than the fineſt Strokes of Wit of the moſt ingenious Author now living: But ſuch is the Uncertainty of human Affairs, that my Readers being now reduced to a ſmall Number, and conſequently the

the Revenues arising from these Lucubrations, every Day diminishing, so that my Treasurer informs me, that he is not able to make good the several Assignments upon them, I expect to hear nothing but Murmurs and Complaints amongst my own Officers, and in a little Time shall be as much decry'd even by them, as I have been commended heretofore.

My Recorder has already remonstrated, that having constantly attended at *Button*'s Coffee-House all the Office Hours, yet notwithstanding, his Fee is so small, he has been obliged to go without his Breakfast for several Days together.

My Poet, who is paid only by the *Piece*, has received so little, that were he not a Man of the greatest Honour, and an inviolable Attachment of Friendship to me, I should expect every Day to hear he has resigned his Post; but being a Person of great Hopes, he sits easy under his Disappointment, and as *Hudibras* says,

Comforts himself with Ends of Verse,
And Sayings of Philosophers.

But that which gives me the most Uneasiness is, that two of the Ladies, to whom I assigned very handsome Pensions, to commend me in all Assemblies, have sent me word, that notwithstanding they had taken a great deal of Pains to cry me up in all Places, yet they can't persuade any Body to speak tolerably of me; and what is more extraordinary, they give me to understand, that a great many who say, that this Paper is the most stupid that ever appeared in Print, yet even these won't allow me to be the Author of it, *as if I were incapable even of Dulness!* Some of my Emissaries farther inform me, that several *Coffee* and *Chocolate* Houses refuse to take this Paper in, alledging it

has

has not Wit enough to be a Pennyworth, and Sir *Thomas* at *White*'s, does not ſcruple to ſay, that he has heard a great many of his Cuſtomers affirm, they know the Author to be a very ſilly Fellow, and for his Part, he is always of their Opinion, unleſs it be in Matters of Accounts. It ſeems, Monſieur *Toupet* has raiſed ſuch a Spirit againſt me in *Soho*, and the adjacent Places, that the Hawkers are afraid to ſell this Paper in all that Diſtrict; and I hear he has animated a certain *Pamphleteer* of his own Nation ſo much againſt me, that he refuſes even to light a Pipe of *Tobacco* with a Piece of the *Country Gentleman*. I am likewiſe told, that the Company at *Child*'s Coffee-Houſe, have forbid the Man of the Houſe to take it in, being angry (it ſeems) with my Anſwer to Mr. *Harebrain*'s Letter. One of my Spies overheard ſome of them ſay, *Now there is a little Hopes, let us never encourage a Fellow of ſuch Principles.* As for the Numbers who receive annual Payment for ſpeaking what they don't think, they are ſo diſperſed in all Places, that it is a hard Matter for Truth to find a Reception any where. Under this Circumſtance of Diſtreſs, I had determined with myſelf to write no more, and rather patiently ſuffer the Obloquy of ill Men, than any Ways endanger my Friends in the Support of a Cauſe however meritorious. In this Perplexity of Mind I fell into a Slumber, where my Imagination was alarmed by an Object ſo ſurprizingly glorious, that I thought myſelf for a Time, in that Region of Felicity, where the Secrets of all Hearts are laid open. The *Genius* who preſided here looked upon me with that Compaſſion and Goodneſs, that I immediately conſidered myſelf under the Protection of a Mother, and after a little Pauſe, as if ſhe would give me Time to recover out of my Aſtoniſhment, ſhe ſpoke to me in an Accent of the greateſt

greateſt Tenderneſs, in the following Manner. *Jupiter*, ſupreme Governor, and Father of the Univerſe, for Reaſons only known to himſelf, reſolving to put the Adminiſtration of the Affairs of this World in the Management of ſecond Cauſes, appointed me, the Daughter of *Saturn* and *Time*, and Mother of *Virtue*, to take upon me the Care and Rule of this terreſtrial Globe; and while I was in this Office, I had the Satisfaction to ſee Sincerity and Uprightneſs flouriſh amongſt Mankind. *Integrity* was the only Quality by which Men were diſtinguiſhed and eſteemed ſuperior, while Simplicity of Manners, and Honeſty in their Dealings, were looked upon as ordinary Virtues, becauſe they were univerſal. Benevolence to one another, became ſo habitual, that it ſeemed inherent in their Conſtitution; and their Emulation was only ſhewn in Acts of Charity and Goodneſs. All thoſe miſchievous Vices, that hurt Society, were forgot, and the penal Laws were in a manner uſeleſs, becauſe there were few or none Offenders. Such was the irreſiſtable Power of *Truth*, that while Men followed her Direction, they acted like Gods themſelves: But *Pluto*, envious of the Felicity of Mortals, and fearing, that by this Means, his ſooty Empire would not be peopled enough, petitioned *Jupiter* that he might have the Management of this *ſublunary* World, aſſuring him at the ſame time, that Men would do as much or more for Rewards, than they would for Truth itſelf, and that therefore he would ſubſtitute ſomething in her Room, which ſhould have equal Power to tempt Man to Virtue, and yet he ſhould look more like a free Agent than he uſed to do before, under the Direction of any ſuperior Deity; and conſequently, his good Actions would have the greater Merit. *Jupiter*, in his Eſſence juſt and righteous, far from ſuſpecting

ing the Deſigns of this *infernal God*, yielded to his Requeſt. *Pluto*, immediately, by the Power of ſubterraneous Fires, produced the Metal called *Gold*, which by its alluring Qualities, drew the Inclinations of Mankind, which Way he thought fit; but as this *Helliſh Deity* was intent only upon the Enlargement of his own Empire, he contrived the Matter ſo, as to make *Sophiſtry* and *Diſſimulation* ſupply the Place of *Truth* and *Sincerity*. *Frugality* and *Simplicity* were put out of Countenance by *Luxury* and *Riot*, and *Integrity* was borne down by the Force of *Corruption*; the Laws that were made for the Puniſhment of evil Doers were explain'd and turned againſt the Righteous, and *he* was only eſteemed virtuous, who was known to be opulent. This *Idol* at laſt extended its Power ſo far, that even *Jove* himſelf ſeemed to be entirely neglected, and the Adorations of Men were only made to this imperious *Miniſter*, who was regarded as the Foundation of all theſe Benefits, which were derived to Man. The *Father of Nations* was juſtly alarmed at ſuch a Procedure, and is reſolved to reſume the Government of the World into his own Hands. *Truth* and *Virtue* will be reſtored to their ancient State; *Integrity* will have its Share in the Adminiſtration; injur'd *Merit* will obtain an honourable Satisfaction, and the Laws will run in their old Channel, to the Deſtruction of *Falſhood* and *Corruption*. When ſhe had ſaid this, ſhe approached me with an Air of Chearfulneſs, and *bid me proceed in the Cauſe of Truth and Virtue, and I ſhould not want the immediate Protection of* Jove *himſelf*. So comfortable a Viſion could not fail of producing in me a freſh Reſolution of going on in the Work I have begun, whatever my Succeſs may be in the Undertaking.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 36. *Monday, July* 11, 1726.

Plorare ergo jubet cauſam lugentis amici. Juv.

CUSTOM is a Tyrant, which domineers in all Countries and in all Places, and gets the better even of Truth and Juſtice: It encourag'd Theft in *Sparta*, *Polygamy* in ſome Places of the World, and makes Diſſimulation faſhionable in *England:* 'Tis this that confines Friendſhip to Perſons of the ſame Sex, and won't allow any ſtrict Commerce between Man and Woman, that are unmarried, or not related, without the Imputation of ſome Deſign, which is criminal; and this Notion has prevail'd for many Ages, inſomuch, that all the Accounts the Ancients give us of this refin'd Virtue, are amongſt thoſe of the ſame Sex, as may be inſtanc'd in *Theſeus* and *Perithous*, *Achilles* and *Patroclus*, *Pylades* and *Oreſtes*, &c. as if it were impoſſible for a Man to converſe with a Woman, without he is guided by the Motives of Love or Intereſt. If indeed, Women were incapable of Virtue, or not endow'd with that ſweet and obliging Temper of Mind, and that lively Readineſs in doing good Offices, or had not the familiar and entertaining Converſation, which is requiſite for the Foundation of Friendſhip, I ſhould not wonder at this Suggeſtion; but Experience ſhews the Contrary; and I

believe I am ſupported with the ſtrongeſt Truth, when I affirm there are more of that Sex poſſeſs'd with thoſe good Qualities, than can be found amongſt the other. I muſt at the ſame Time do Juſtice to ſome of my own Sex, who have ſo much Honour, and ſo nice a Diſcernment of the Merits of an agreeable, virtuous Woman, that they conſider her only in that Point of Light, as ſhe is capable by her Converſation, to ſoften the Cares of Life, or augment thoſe innocent Pleaſures, which were given us by Providence to render us happy, and which are always moſt ſenſible to us in the Participation with one another. Among many Accounts, I ſhall chuſe one very Modern, to confirm this Obſervation.

The Duke of *Medina Sidona* was a Man of the niceſt Honour, as well as the greateſt Affability; his high Quality as well as his extenſive Knowledge, made him not only reſpected by his Countrymen, but conſider'd by his Prince, as a Perſon qualified for one of the greateſt Poſts in the State: This he manag'd with ſo much Prudence and Uprightneſs, that he gain'd the Approbation of all Men; but the Exigence of Publick Affairs, made him quit this Employment, and being deſirous to viſit thoſe Countries which gave Birth to the greateſt Heroes, as well as to the moſt polite Writers of Antiquity, he undertook a Voyage to *Italy*. Here having for ſome Time, entertain'd himſelf with the moſt ſurprizing Works of Art and Nature, he at laſt beheld the beautiful *Stratonice*. His Heart immediately felt the ſoft Impulſe of Love, and he could no longer reſiſt the Importunities of ſo ſweet a Paſſion. The Grace of his Perſon, as well as his ſuperior Qualities, were ſo ſtrong Advocates for him, that in a little

little Time they were married, and he brought this Lady with him into his own Country. The ſprightly and obliging Temper of *Stratonice* ſoon gain'd the Hearts of the *Spaniards*, and they no longer wonder'd, that he had taken a *Foreigner* into his Arms, who was indow'd with ſo many Agreements. She ſubdued the malicious by her Complacency, and Envy loſt itſelf in Admiration. This happy *Pair* liv'd together with an interrupted Satisfaction, and by their reciprocal Endearments, ſhew'd the greateſt Example of conjugal Affection; but in a ſhort Time, too ſhort a Time! Death put an End to this happy State; for a few Years after, the Princeſs then on the Throne, being perplex'd in her Councils, as if ſhe thought the Duke of *Medina Sidonia*, the propereſt Perſon to re-eſtabliſh the Glory of the Empire, ſhe made him her firſt Miniſter. He did not enjoy this Poſt long, for the *Princeſs* dying, other Meaſures were taken; the old Miniſtry was reſtor'd, and the *Duke* was made *Vice-Roy* of *Sicily*. He executed this Charge with great Honour and Reputation, but ſoon afterwards follow'd the Fate of his old Miſtreſs.

Stratonice had doubtleſs been inconſolable for ſo great a Loſs, had it not been for the pious Tenderneſs and continu'd Affection of the Princeſs of *Aſturias* her Miſtreſs. This great Perſon is ever ſtudious of the Happineſs of her Servants, and by her Condeſcention and Goodneſs makes every Body near her, forget their private Misfortunes. The Pleaſure and Glory of ſerving her, being a ſufficient Compenſation for all other Evils; and the Nature of *Stratonice*'s Office, being one of the Ladies of Honour, with us call'd, Ladies of the Bedchamber, gave her frequent Opportunities of the only Converſation in the World, that

could make her insensible of her Sorrows. It was impossible for a Lady, possess'd of so many eminent Qualities, not to be regarded in a Court of the utmost Politeness; especially at a Time, when there were so many Persons of Distinction of all Nations, who came to partake of those Divertisements, that for their Elegance and Magnificence exceeded all others in *Europe*. Amongst the rest, the Marquis of *Florio*, of a noble Family in *Milanoise*, residing at *Madrid*, for some Time, became enamour'd with the Conversation of *Stratonice*. As he was himself a Man of fine Accomplishments, it was not wonderful, that Sympathy of Manners should create in her an Esteem for him, which at last grew up into a strict Amity. This was improv'd so far, that she gave him an Apartment in her Palace, that she might by this Means, have more of that Company, which she so much delighted in. It is hard, that the malicious World should censure so noble a Friendship, especially since Time had wore out most of her exterior Charms, and that the only Beauties they would allow her, were those of her Mind: But such is the Nature of Envy, that though it knows the *Citadel* is impregnable, yet will it imploy its ineffectual Force upon the *Outworks*, and endeavour to deface what it cannot destroy: But the superior Virtues of these two great Friends, defy'd the Insolence of Malice, and enjoyed the Pleasure of an innocent Communication, so rarely to be found, even amongst Men of the most exalted Characters in the World. While some busy Spirits were active in interpreting this Part of her Conduct to her Disadvantage; there were others who basely insinuated, that the *Marquis* had avaritious Views, which he cover'd under the Cloak of Dissimulation; but these seem'd to be as remote

mote from his Heart, as Truth was from theirs, who ſuggeſted ſuch a Deſign; for, in the laſt *Cataſtrophe* of her Life, when generally the Heart acts with the utmoſt Sincerity, and ſhe would have bequeath'd him the largeſt Part of her Eſtate, the generous *Milanoiſe* refus'd to receive any Thing in Prejudice to her Relations; and to vindicate his Character, took a Ring only, as an everlaſting Remembrance of that Friendſhip, which was once ſo dear to him. I hope this great Example, for the Future, will render the Commerce between the different Sexes leſs ſuſpected, in the like Circumſtances, at leaſt, that it may ſerve for a Juſtification of ſuch Perſons to whom any one ſhall think proper to apply this Story.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 37. *Friday, July* 15, 1726.

Sed nunc tales ſociantur negotio, quales Domini habere faſtidiunt. VEGET.

The following Epiſtle being writ by a Perſon of public Spirit, needs no Apology for its being inſerted here.

S I R,

'ALTHO' of late your Speculations have been chiefly employ'd in publick Affairs, yet as you have undertaken to animadvert upon Abuſes of all Kinds, 'I muſt ſuggeſt one to your Conſideration, which

'is become general, and is juſtly complain'd of 'by every Body; I mean the great Inſolence, 'Cheats, and Negligence of Servants, who inſtead 'of being a Conveniency, are now grown one 'of the greateſt Uneaſineſſes of Life. You will 'give me Leave to illuſtrate the Grievance I com-'plain of, by an Inſtance, that happened not 'very long ago, within my own Acquaintance.

'One Mr. *Danvers*, a Friend of mine, a Gen-'tleman of known Worth and Merit, and of an 'eaſy Fortune, ſet up a Chariot, for the Con-'veniency of going to a little Place, which he 'had near the Town, and back again. As he 'ſtudied Uſe more than Show, he beſpoke a 'ſtrong plain Chariot, but upon Springs, as na-'turally loving his Eaſe. He hir'd a Coachman, 'nam'd *Robin*, who was mightily recommended 'to him, a pert, forward Fellow, who knowing 'Mr. *Danvers*'s Averſion to Trouble, undertook 'to find him in Horſes, to keep his Chariot in 'conſtant good Repair, and all this at an eaſier 'Rate, than any Body ſhould do it at. Mr. '*Danvers*, pleas'd with the Fellows fair Promiſes, 'and above all, with the Proſpect of little Trou-'ble, readily agreed with him upon his own 'Terms.

'*Robin*'s firſt Care was to provide himſelf with 'a Pair of quiet Nags, that ſhould neither kick 'nor riſe, nor give him the leaſt Diſturbance in 'the Coach-Box; accordingly he got a Pair of 'dull Beaſts to his Mind, called *Surly* and *Ranter*, 'but as they had not Spirit enough to diſturb the 'Coachman, neither were they able to draw the 'Coach, for they ſtumbled and blunder'd every 'Step they took, notwithſtanding the Whip, with 'which *Robin* us'd pretty freely, to keep them 'up.

'Mr.

'Mr. *Danvers*, who found himſelf very uneaſy
'in a Chariot, that only moved by Starts and
'Jerks, us'd to pull the String pretty often, and
'aſk'd *Robin*, what the Devil was the Matter?
'*Robin*, who could not well lay the Blame upon
'Horſes of his own providing, told his Maſter,
'the Roads were ſo bad, and full of Holes, that
'it was impoſſible to avoid thoſe Jolts, and that
'he defy'd any Coachman to drive, or any
'Horſes to draw better, in ſuch curſed Ways.
'This Excuſe paſs'd for ſome Time, till the
'Summer came, and the Roads grew better;
'when Mr. *Danvers* finding the Motion full as
'uneaſy as before, he began to pull the String
'much oftner, and to grow a little Teſty. *Robin*,
'who found, that ſome new Excuſe was neceſſary
'to pacify his Maſter, laid all the Blame upon
'*Ranter*, (who by the Way, was grown a little
'hard mouth'd) and told his Maſter, that if he
'would let him change him for a Horſe that he
'knew, call'd *Sloven*, he would undertake to
'carry his *Honour*, as eaſily as ever he was carried
'in his Life. Mr. *Danvers*, who had already
'ſuch ill Luck with Horſes of *Robin*'s provid-
'ing, deſir'd, that he might firſt ſee this *Sloven*,
'before he was put to the Coach: *Sloven* was
'accordingly produc'd, to the great Surpriſe of
'Mr. *Danvers*, who, though not very nice in
'his Cattle, order'd him to be immediately
'taken away, ſaying, that he never ſaw ſo
'filthy a Beaſt in his Life, and that he was not
'good enough for a Dray Cart. *Robin*, being
'thus diſappointed, had Recourſe to another Stra-
'tagem, and told his *Maſter*, that to ſay the
'Truth, the Reaſon why he did not carry him
'ſo ſmoothly, as otherways he ſhould do, was,
'that his Honour interrupted him ſo often, by

' pulling him with the *Check-ſtring*; for how was
' it poſſible for him to drive well, and be oblig'd
' to look behind him every Minute; but if his
' Honour would conſent to have that *Check-ſtring*
' taken away, he would anſwer for it, all ſhould
' go right. This Requeſt, however unreaſonable
' it might ſeem, Mr. *Danvers*, from his natural
' Indulgence, granted, reſolving not to leave
' *Robin* the leaſt Excuſe. Accordingly, the String
' was taken away, which *Robin* wore in Triumph
' acroſs his Shoulders, and now ſate uncontroul'd
' on the *Coach-Box*. The next Time Mr. *Dan-*
' *vers* went to his Country-houſe, *Robin* reſolv'd
' to leave the beaten Road, and go a new Way
' over other People's Grounds, when unfortunate-
' ly he happen'd to be attack'd by the People,
' whoſe Fences he broke down; *Robin* whip'd
' and ſwore; the Horſes ſtumbled and plung'd;
' the Country People with their Clubs, laid on
' both *Robin* and the Horſes; the Chariot was
' overturn'd in a Ditch; the Tackle was broke;
' the Horſes run away, and *Robin* broke his Neck
' with the Fall. Mr. *Danvers* was happily taken
' out of the Chariot without being hurt, and as
' ſoon as known, was treated with the Reſpect
' and Regard that was due to his Rank and Vir-
' tues; every one expreſſing their Indignation at
' the Abuſe of ſo good a Maſter, but rejoycing
' at the ſame Time at the deſerv'd *Cataſtrophe* of
' ſo bad a Servant.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

WILL. JOHNSON.

I have

I have often heard this Story of Mr. *Danvers*, but not with all theſe Circumſtances; and have wonder'd, that the Laws are not made more ſtrict in Relation to Servants; the preſent Statutes that are now in Force, only relating to Apprentices, Labourers, or Servants, of Huſbandry, hired for a Year. Indeed, the Statute of the 21ſt of *Henry* VIII. Chap. 7. makes it Felony, for a Servant to go away with his Maſter's Goods, to the Value of forty Shillings, with an Intent to ſteal or imbezzle them, provided the Goods be delivered to him to keep; And another modern Statute has been made to the ſame Purpoſe, but there are Millions of other Abuſes amongſt Servants, for which, the Law has made no Proviſion; and becauſe they are ſo univerſal a Grievance, worthy the Attention of the Legiſlature.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 38. *Monday, July* 18, 1726.

——— *Eſt etiam diverſæ tertius artis*
Phantaſos.

OVID. METAM.

NATURE varies herſelf into Millions of Shapes and Figures; for, beſide the ſeveral Orders of Creatures, that are viſible amongſt us, there are Numbers of different Species that fly in the Air, or are immers'd in the Ocean, or inhabit other Bodies, which our Glaſſes have diſcovered, and give us Reaſon

Reaſon to believe there are many more, which never will be known. This providential Variety is in nothing more remarkable, than in that diſtinguiſh'd Difference, which is in Animals of the ſame Species, inſomuch, that we very rarely ſee any two, who have not ſome manifeſt Diſparity or Diſſemblance. Beſide, this Diverſity of Features, the unaccountable Diſagreement between almoſt every Individual, in Relation to the ſame Object, is wonderful; hence ariſes that Variety in Men's Ways of Living, their different Manners, Cuſtoms and Habits: This divided Inclination to ſeveral Objects is admirably well expreſs'd in one Word, called *Fancy*, a Word that ſignifies only the Power of Imagination; for, in moſt Caſes, Reaſon has little to do in the Election, and thus we are often at a Loſs, how another Man could make ſuch or ſuch a Choice; nay, frequently we entertain an indifferent Opinion of a Perſon, for approving what we diſlike: But, however, had it not been for this peculiar Indulgence of Nature to preſerve the ſeveral Orders of Being, Mankind had been by this Time almoſt extinct. The real Objects of Deſire being ſo few, that they would not be ſufficient to continue the Species; but Fancy ſupplies this Defect, lights up the Flames of Love, and gives us Appetites for imaginary Charms and deluſory Tranſports, Well has it been for *Flavella*, that *Fancy* has had ſo high a Dominion, or the Dowdy had never riſen to the Dignity of a *Lady:* The Lover beholds her in a different Light, and fancies he ſees thoſe Agreements, which No-body elſe can diſcover. *Leonora* had a harder Fate, ſhe fancied a Man for the Heighth of his Stature, and the Largeneſs of his make, who diſappointed her in every Particular. Thus *Fancy* domineers in the Mind, and buſies herſelf

herſelf in moſt of our Actions, and has taken upon her to order our Dreſs, prepare our Equipage, and collect our Furniture, and has a Share in the Contrivance of our Houſes and Gardens; Nay, even our Temples are not exempt from her Juriſdiction: Nature herſelf is forced to ſubmit to her Impertinence, nor does ſhe think her greateſt Maſter-piece compleat, till ſhe has had a Hand in the finiſhing it. About half a Century ago, ſhe undertook the Head of the moſt beautiful Creature Living; but whether out of Envy to ſee herſelf outdone, or her own pragmatical Humour, ſhe reſolv'd to add to what ſhe could not improve; accordingly ſhe raiſed a Structure upon it of a prodigious Heighth, 'which going up in a ſloping 'Line from Bottom to Top, and the Diviſions (as 'it were) bench'd in, had the Appearance of ſe-'veral Towers one upon another, not unlike the 'Tower of *Babel*, as it is repreſented in our 'Pictures.' This is the Period of Time, when Women were in a State of the greateſt Exaltation: and if what Hiſtory ſays to be true, their Power has decreaſed, as this Machine has diminiſhed. At preſent indeed, ſhe ſeems to ſet no Value at all upon the upper Part of that Sex, having brought it in every Thing, as near as ſhe can, to reſemble a *Tete de mounton*, but whatever Contempt ſhe may have for this, yet ſhe has in a more abundant Manner taken Care of every other Part of them, and by an ornamental Addition of a *colour'd Clock* to a Stocking, has made even their Legs conſiderable, which uſed before to be laid aſide, without any Reſpect at all. I have ſometimes thought, that *Fancy* was given to Mankind to divert the Melancholy, and temper the Severity of Reaſon, which takes Pleaſure in ſo few Things, that Life would be inſupportable without this droll Com-

panion;

panion; but her greateſt Uſe is, her admirable Addreſs in reconciling thoſe Individuals to themſelves, whom Contempt and Deriſion would otherwiſe render inconſolable; and indeed, in this Caſe, ſhe works Miracles, for you'll hardly ſee the moſt deſpicable Being, that does not fancy, it has ſomething in it ſuperior. I know a Fellow, of whom no Mortal ever ſaid a good Thing, or could think a tolerable one, who by the Aſſiſtance of a ſtrong Imagination, is as eaſy and well ſatisfy'd with himſelf, as a Man of the greateſt Merit in the World: But this Power of Imagination is not always ſo Indulgent; on the Contrary, it perſecutes us ſometimes with a comical, ſometimes with a cruel Tyranny: When it takes away the whole Uſe of Reaſon, and makes a Man fancy himſelf an Emperor, or a Tea-Pot, it can't be ſuppos'd that he feels a great deal of Pain; but when it ſeizes on a weak Mind, and frights it with viſionary Horrors and feign'd Diſtempers, it leaves the Patient in a worſe Condition, than he who is affected with a real Malady; becauſe in this Caſe, there is a greater Probability of a Recovery.——The following Letter was ſent me Yeſterday with an expreſs Deſire, that it might be publiſh'd the very firſt Opportunity I could find.

SIR,

IN your Paper of the 24th of June, *I read a Letter ſubſcrib'd by the Name of my Huſband, which I ſhould have anſwered ſooner, but that he was out of Town, and I had a Mind to hear from his own Mouth, whether or no he was the Author of it; and having no Reaſon to doubt of that, I take the Liberty to ſend you this, that my Juſtification may be as publick as his Calumny. 'Tis true indeed,*

indeed, I marry'd this mercenary Wretch, but it is as false what (he says,) *that he had no Fortune with me. I believe, Sir, a Man of your good Sense and Politeness, will always be of an Opinion, that the Qualifications and Endowments of a well-bred Woman, are more esteem'd than Money, because they are more valuable; and were he not the most ungrateful Man living, he would think that an Elevation from* Exchange-Alley, *to a Place at St.* James's, *was more advantageous to him, than a Rise of Stocks; but he is so stupid an Animal, that it is impossible to convince him of this; and then Sir, if I were to describe to you the Furniture of this Creature's House, and his Manner of Living, when I first came to it, you could not believe it: Therefore, I shall only mention a few Particulars, and you will easily judge of the Rest. In the Parlour there was a little Buffet set out with one Silver* Salt-seller, *two small* Castors, *and a* Salver *with six* Delft *Ware* Plates, *and a broken* Dish. *In the Bed-chamber, there were three Cane-Chairs, a deal Table, and a little Press-bed; his Houshold Linnen consisted of two Pair of Sheets, two Table Cloths, and one Napkin, and every Thing proportionable. I took this Man a House in* Bloomsbury-square, *furnish'd it from Top to Bottom with the richest Furniture, bought a fine Side-Board of Plate, and carry'd him to Court in my own Coach with some of my own Family, and yet he reckons all this Nothing; as to the Money he talks of, that I have lost, the Event of Play is uncertain, and it might as well have turned to his Advantage; besides, if he had common Sense, he should have been proud to have sacrific'd such a Trifle in so good Company; and if I had a Mind to recriminate, you must know this great Oaf——loses above 500 l. in this present Lottery, directly contrary to my Advice. I cou'd say a great*

a great deal more in Justification of myself, but that I fear I trespass upon your Patience, it will be a great Satisfaction to me to hear your Decision of this Difference in my Favour, and extreamly ollige

Your constant Reader,

and humble Servant

CHARLOTTE STOCKWELL.

Good Manners oblige me to take Notice of this Lady's Commands, which I can only do in this Manner, by telling her, that the latter Part of her Letter, not leaving me at Liberty to give my Opinion of this Misunderstanding between her and her Husband, I hope she will excuse my farther Silence, in so important Affair.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 39. *Friday, July* 22, 1726.

—Multum ille & terris jactatus & alto.
VIRG.

WILL. Testy call'd upon me t'other Day to go along with him as far as *Hammersmith*, to dine with an old Acquaintance of ours, who lives near the *Thames* Side. As *Will* happens to be a Man of that delicate Constitution, that his Mind seems to be govern'd by the good or evil Impressions of the Weather, he always

always chuſes a Sun-ſhiny Day, when he goes to viſit his Friends, and indeed, when we took Water at *Whitehall* Stairs, the *Sun* ſpread all his Glories over the Horizon, with ſo clear a Light, and ſo agreeable a Warmth, that I fancied myſelf, for a Time, in *Campania*, or *Naples*. We had not been long in this agreeable Situation, before a Cloud appear'd in the *Weſt*, which the Watermen affirm'd was a Sign of Change of Weather. This put us a little out of Humour, becauſe it defeated thoſe great Hopes we had raiſed in our Minds of ſpending that Day in an uninterrupted Satisfaction. Whilſt we were bewailing our Diſappointment, and putting on our Cloaks to prevent being ſurprized by the Rain, we were overtaken by a Boat with two Ladies in it, who attack'd us in a familiar Language, peculiar to the Inhabitants of that Element where we travelled, and cryed out, *Where are thoſe two old Prigs ageing?* But without ſtaying for an Anſwer, one of them continued, *I ſuppoſe, theſe are a Couple of old Fornicators, that are ſtealing out of Town to ſee a Wench. Don't you think* Fanny (ſays one to the other) *theſe queer Fellews look like the two Elders in the Picture, that hangs in our Parlour at* Putney? As great an Enmity as *Will* profeſſes for that Sex, yet he can't forbear pratling to them whenever they come in his Way; I *believe* (ſays he) *Ladies, it would be for your Advantage, if the Character of* Suſanna *fitted either of you half ſo well. D'ye hear* Molly (reply'd the other) *the Thing can ſpeak! Well Dad, how do you pay, by the Week, or by the Quarter? O! by the Week you may be ſure* (ſays the other) *theſe old Curmudgeons never truſt a Girl with a Quarter's Pay at a Time. Heark'ee you old Toaſt in the Camblet Cloak?* (addreſſing herſelf to me) *do you think any Body can*

like that Weather-beaten Face of yours? I had rather kiſs a Peruke Block. What a ſapleſs Stick of Wood is there? I'll be hang'd Fanny, ſays ſhe, *if you were to put a Candle to him, if he did not burn like a Billet.* I was reſolv'd not to ſpeak a Word, believing Silence the beſt Way to put an End to this Impertinence, but unfortunately for poor *Will Teſty*, their Boat approaching ſtill nearer us, one of them burſt out a Laughing, as if ſhe would ſplit her Sides, and bawl'd out, Fanny, *what d'ye think? That's old Squire* Teſty, *that kept the famous Mrs.*——— here, ſhe had as much good Manners, which I did not expect, as to whiſper the Name in her Ear; *What*, ſays ſhe, *will you never have done? Surely thou art the moſt impudent old Sinner that ever was born. Pray Sir, what's become of that fine Lady, that equipp'd you ſo handſomely?* Here poor *Will* could not contain himſelf, but bid her *hold her Tongue, for an impertinent Huſſy.* I could eaſily perceive he was ſtung with this Part of the Diſcourſe, therefore I ordered the Waterman to feather their Oars, by which Means we got rid of our new Acquaintance, but however, I found this fooliſh Adventure had put my Friend very much out of Humour, by certain broken Sentences that fell from him (as if he were talking to himſelf) whenever he is under this Circumſtance. We were now arrived as high as *Batterſea*, when the Wind began to riſe, and thick Clouds obſcured the Heavens, and gave us certain Symptoms of an approaching Shower; in a few Minutes the Rain fell in a moſt violent Manner, and being driven furiouſly by the Wind we were hardly able to defend ourſelves with our Cloaks. I comforted my Companion as well as I could, but he broke out every now and then; and ſaid, Well, *if there is any Thing more deceitful than*

than Women, it is the Weather? If they ever catch me upon the Water again, I'll give them leave to pickle me. At laſt, with a great deal of Difficulty we arrived at *Hammerſmith*, where getting as faſt as we could to our Friend's Houſe, we were received with all the Kindneſs and good Manners imaginable. As much as *Will* was out of Humour at the Diſappointment of his Voyage, yet at the Sight of his old Acquaintance, he put on Air of Cheerfulneſs and Pleaſure, and after ſome Time ſpent in an agreeable Raillery upon the former Tranſactions of their Lives, we were interrupted by the Approach of ſome young Ladies who came in upon us, upon Notice that Dinner was ready. After our Friend had preſented us to his Wife, and the reſt of the Company, we ſat down to Table. I had forgot to mention, that this Gentleman's Wife was a Stranger to us, he having lately married her. I could not help obſerving, that theſe young Creatures look'd upon us with a great deal of Contempt, and when *Will* tucked his Napkin into his Collar, they all burſt out a Laughing. The Gentleman of the Houſe ſeem'd to be out of Countenance at their Behaviour, but *Will* with a great deal of Gallantry turn'd off the Ridicule, by ſaying, *That it was his greateſt Happineſs, to think, that in all Parts of his Life, he ſhould contribute to the Pleaſure and Entertainment of the Fair Sex.* We had not been long in this Situation, before our Company increaſed upon us prodigiouſly, and every Perſon had the Head of a large Spaniel or Greyhound at his Elbow; beſides theſe, there were three or four Perroquets, that flew about the Room, and ſcream'd moſt hideouſly. While *Will* was deliberating in directing the Wing of a *Chicken* to his Mouth, one of theſe Domeſtick *Hawks* ſtoop'd at it, and carry'd it off his Fork in an In-

ſtant. This Diſappointment was attended with a worſe ſoon after, for when he was going to drink the Lady of the Houſe's Health in a Bumper of Claret, one of the Spaniels ſprung up upon his Arm, and made him ſpill all the Liquor upon his Cloaths. It is impoſſible to look grave, when theſe trifling Accidents happen, and a very hard Matter for the Sufferer to keep his Temper under this Circumſtance; in ſhort, poor *Will* could not preſerve his Equanimity, but reſented it by giving the Dog a Box on the Ear. The Lady of the Houſe colour'd immediately, and cry'd out, *Law Sir, how could you be ſo barbarous?* The Dog ſnarl'd, and ſeem'd reſolv'd to revenge the Affront, the reſt of his Brethren began to bark and animate him to the Combat, in a Minute there was nothing but Noiſe and Confuſion, the Birds ſcream'd, the Dogs bark'd, the Miſtreſs ſcolded, the Ladies laugh'd, the Maſter and Servants roſe up and ſtorm'd to put an End to the Fray. There could not poſſibly be more Noiſe in a Sea Fight. In ſome Time, when the Dogs were turned out of the Room, and all was quiet, the Gentleman of the Houſe ſpoke to his Lady, *Madam, how often have I deſired, that theſe Creatures ſhould not be admitted here at Dinner Time? Sir*, ſays ſhe very warmly, *I don't ſee what Harm they do; if People are ſo indiſcreet to provoke them, they muſt take what follows, I think.* I could perceive by this Anſwer, that my Friend liv'd under a Female Government, and when Dinner was over, the Lady's Looks ſhew'd, that we had not been welcome Gueſts, for ſhe went away without taking any Notice of us. As for the Gentleman himſelf, he was ſo much out of Countenance, that he could hardly ſpeak a Word, but the Weather continuing ſtill very foul, *Will* deſired him to lend

lend him his Coach to *London*, which was immediately got ready, and we took our Leave. As we were on the Road, I could not help reflecting on our ill Fortune, which had disappointed us in every Part of the most pleasing Expectation, but *Will* interrupted me and said, *He could not account for it any Way, but that he had observ'd some Men were so unhappy thro' almost the whole Course of their Lives, as to meet with cross Accidents in all their Undertakings. I am one of those unlucky Wretches myself*, says he, *and I should not wonder to see the Coach overturn'd before we get to* London; but, however, we got Home without any farther Accident.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 40. *Monday, July* 25, 1726.

Ergo vivida vis animi pervicit & extra
Processit longe flammantia monia mundi
Atque omne immensum pergravit mente, animoque.

LUCRE.

LAST Night, when I came Home, I saw a Catalogue of Books lying upon my Table, which were in a few Days to be sold by Auction, and looking over the great Names of those of our Predecessors, who have taken so much Pains in the Search of Knowledge, and after all, have given us so little Certainty, it rais'd in me the utmost Compassion for those Men, who go on in such an indolent

State of Life, that they let their whole Time paſs away, without making one ſingle Enquiry, but taking every Thing upon Truſt, ſuffer themſelves to be impos'd upon, even in the moſt important Events.

With theſe Thoughts I fell aſleep, and on a ſudden, my Imagination was alarm'd with the Proſpect of a little Army drawn up on a Plain, in the beſt Order imaginable. The Countenance of the Troops, which compos'd it, look'd brave and noble, aſſur'd of Succeſs, and ſeeming to wiſh for an Opportunity of Battle.

At the Head of this Body of Men, I beheld a Perſon of a very extraordinary Appearance, clad in ſhining Armour, but of ſuch a Nature, as did not dazzle the Eye; her Head bare, her Eyes piercing, and of ſo ſweet an Aſpect, that it was impoſſible to look on her without Love and Veneration. In her Hand ſhe brandiſh'd a Sword of the fineſt Metal, with an Inſcription in the moſt legible Characters, by which Means I diſcover'd the Name of this Perſon to be *Knowledge*. Upon her Right, ſtood a venerable Man, with ſuch an Air of Gravity and Wiſdom, as ſeem'd to command the utmoſt Reſpect, whom by ſome *Buſto*'s I have ſeen of his, I knew to be *Socrates*: On her Left, at ſome Diſtance, I ſaw another Perſon marching at the Head of a Detachment of Beings, who had more the Appearance of Ghoſts than Men, and ſeem'd as Auxiliaries to this little Army, *this* I diſcover'd to be *Plato*, by his Lieutenant, who ſtrutted juſt behind him, and could hardly have been ſeen, but for the Inſcription on his Helmet, which was (*Ens Rationis,*) and look'd much bigger than the reſt of his Body: As they approach'd, *Knowledge* ſpoke to him with a Smile of ineffable Goodneſs, and bid him diſmiſs

diſmiſs his Troops, for they ſhould have no Occaſion for them. The Front of this Army was cover'd by a Moraſſy Ground, indented with ſeveral *Couperes*, cover'd with Hedges and Briars, which made the Way very difficult and dangerous. On each Side, it was flank'd with a Wood of that Thickneſs, that they who fell into it, were hardly ever known to make their Way out of it again: Behind this Moraſs, in a Country full of Hills and Rocks, I diſcover'd a vaſt Number of Men buſy in clearing the Ways from the Buſhes and Brambles that hindered their March, and where the Ground was deep and muddy, throwing in whole Waggon Loads of Books, and Rolls of Parchment; from the Fierceneſs of theſe Men's Countenances, the Fatigues they underwent, and their great Skill and cloſe Application, I made no Doubt, but their Deſign was to attack the Army of *Knowledge*; but then, I was very much ſurpriz'd, that I ſaw nothing like a Weapon among them all, except a prodigious Quantity of *Geeſe Feathers*, pointed at one End, reſembling *Arrows*: This great Number of Men ſeem'd to be divided in two Bodies under ſeperate Commanders, who were call'd *Sophiſtry* and *Gibberiſh*, which I knew by the Labels that hung on their Breaſts to diſtinguiſh them, leſt one ſhould be taken for the other. *Ariſtotle*, who acted as General under the Firſt, finding the Ways at the Front of the Army impracticable, thought it adviſeable to take a large Compaſs, in Hopes to fall on the Rear of the Enemy, but he not knowing the Country, and miſtaking his Way, fell into ſo many Defiles and narrow Paſſes, that he had a great deal of Difficulty to get his Men home again; but however, two of his Lieutenants, *Thomas Aquinas* and *Scotus*, renewed the Attack with ſo much Bravery, that

had not *Knowledge* herſelf come in, and rallied her Troops, which were then giving Way, it is very likely they would have laid all that Side of the Country under Contribution. *Gibberiſh* obſerving the Army of *Sophiſtry* to give Way, march'd with all Expedition to their Relief, and accordingly detach'd a Party of Light Horſe, arm'd with Briefs to attack, or rather Skirmiſh, reſerving the Brunt of the Battle for the Veterans, who could not move ſo nimbly: As ſoon as theſe old Troops came up and form'd, the Battle grew very obſtinate; as faſt as they were broke, they rallied again, nor would they have ever yielded, if *Juſtice* had not taken Compaſſion of thoſe they fought for, who were almoſt ruin'd by the large Subſides they paid for the Continuance of the War, therefore, ſhe immediately ſent for her *Lieutenant*, who then preſided in her higheſt Court of Judicature, who with one Stroke of a *Bill* diſperſed this great Army.

I wiſh it were poſſible for me to anſwer all my Correſpondents Requeſts, as ſoon as they deſire, and I hope No-body will think, I deſignedly uſe any Delay in publiſhing their Letters, when I aſſure them, that I inſert them in the Order I receive them. Therefore the following Epiſtle being next on the File, claims a Place in this Paper.

SIR,

I AM a younger Son, of a younger Branch of a Family, who have been eminent theſe many Years, for procuring a conſiderable Number of Votes at the Election for our County, tho' at preſent our Circumſtances are the worſe for it, but however, my Zeal in this Affair, and a happy Conſtitution, which makes me cheerfully undergo Fatigue, has made

made a certain great Man in our Neighbourhood take Notice of me, and receive me into his Confidence; and indeed, when he is in the Country, he never cares to be without me. I preſide at all his Entertainments, and when any Man is to be knock'd down with a Bumper, I am his Executioner; they are ready to ſplit their Sides with laughing to ſee me manage a Surloin of Beef, or a Haunch of Veniſon, and then ſwallow up an Ocean of Cuſtard and Jellies. The Chaplain ſays, he believes I could eat up an Ox in four and twenty Hours. This Part of my Life would be happy enough, but ſometimes my Lord takes it in his Head to put Jalap in my Wine, and ſometimes my Lady orders Cowitch to be thrown in my Bed; I ſometimes am order'd to go a Hunting, and put upon a Run-away Horſe; and it is a ſtanding Jeſt in the Family, that I once broke my Collar-Bone, leaping over a five Bar-Gate, at a Fox Chaſe. I can't help acquainting you (by the Bye) that whenſoever my Lord is pleas'd to tell a Lye of any of the Gentlemen of the oppoſite Intereſt in the Country, he fathers it upon me. It happens luckily indeed, that I am ſtrong enough to bear it: I have been thraſh'd once or twice upon this Account already, and when I reaſon'd with my Lord about it, all the Anſwer he gave me was, that Valour was a Recommendation to Preferment, and that I ſhould ſoon be provided for; but as this has been his Language theſe twelve Years, to tell you the Truth, I am weary of it. Now, hearing Sir, that you have a great many Places in your Diſpoſal, I ſhould be glad if you would find out ſomething for me, and I aſſure you No-body would ſerve you with more Zeal and Truth, than, Sir,

Your moſt humble Servant,

GABRIEL BLUNDERBUSS.

I know a great many in the Circumſtances of this Gentleman, who endure a thouſand comical Torments and cruel Joys, for the Honour of ſitting at great Men's Tables; theſe are the *Whetſtones* which give an Edge to the Expreſſions of Men of little Genius, who think themſelves very conſiderable in ſuch a Perſon's Company, and go away very much delighted with the wretched Triumph of having impos'd upon the Credulity, or rather good Nature of a Man of more Honeſty, and perhaps a better Underſtanding than themſelves. But to anſwer the Demands of this Gentleman's Letter, who has endur'd ſo much in the Support of a *Lye*, I promiſe to double all his Advantages to him, and require him only to act with Reſolution in the Defence of *Truth*.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 41. *Friday*, *July* 29, 1726.

Qui enim non obſiſtit, ſi poteſt, injuriæ; tam eſt in vitio, quam ſi parentes, aut Patriam, aut Socios deſerat. CIC.

POWER is a *Weed*, which, if it be ſuffered to grow unmoleſted, will deſtroy and choak every Plant that is near it, and in a little Time, lay waſte the fineſt Productions of Art and Nature, it has ſomething ſo vorations in its Compoſition, that were it not often how'd, and ſometimes rooted up, it would

would ſpread itſelf over the Face of the whole Earth; and therefore it is, that let it fall on what Soil it may, it is ſure to do Miſchief, unleſs it be kept under a proper Reſtraint.

The juſteſt and the wiſeſt Man upon Earth is not always equal to himſelf, but ſometimes ſuffers his Reaſon to be carried away by his Paſſions, and in thoſe Intervals is more likely to do wrong than right, and therefore is not to be truſted with abſolute Power: Beſides, how uncommon is it for Men to own themſelves in an Error, and much more uncommon for thoſe, who can ſupport their Crimes by the Greatneſs of their Authority, and when once a Man has done evil, he thinks himſelf not ſafe, unleſs he enlarges his Power, which he very often does by thoſe Expedients, which are baſe and wicked, and which he himſelf might at firſt diſdain and abhor. The Calamities which befel this Country in 1641, are ſufficient to demonſtrate this Truth.

But whatever Beginnings Power may have, it is its Nature (as a modern Author has it) to be ever incroaching, and converting every extraordinary Power, granted at particular Times and upon particular Occaſions, into an ordinary Power to be uſed at all Times, and when there is no Occaſion; nor does it ever willingly part with any Advantage. From this Spirit it is, that occaſional Commiſſions have grown ſometimes perpetual, that three Years have increaſed to ſeven, and one into a Time indefinite, and that when the People have done with the Magiſtrates, the Magiſtrates will not have done with the People.

It is the Excellency of the Conſtitution of *England*, that no Power is properly lodged any where, ſo as to be offenſive to the People, inſomuch that it is a Maxim in the Law, that *the King can do no*

wrong

wrong, which is to be underſtood thus; that the King does nothing, but thro' his Miniſters; ſo that, as they are always to be ſuppoſed to know the Laws, it is always in their Power to prevent any Thing being done contrary to Law, and conſequently if any Thing be ſo done, they are accountable for it, becauſe it muſt be done by them: But as there is no Government in the World that is perfect, ſo it has happened even with us, that when a Favourite had gained ſo much of his Prince's Confidence, that all the great Offices were filled up with his own Creatures, who were willing to do juſt as he was pleaſed to direct them, in this Caſe, the Subject lay at the Mercy of the Miniſter, and became a Prey to his Avarice and Ambition, as may be inſtanced in the Duke of *Buckingham* and others, to ſupport whoſe Miſtakes and Extravagances, the King himſelf loſt both his Crown, and his Life in the Conſequence.

However, we are happier in this Reſpect, than our neighbouring Nations, becauſe that, tho' a Calamity of this Sort has been ſuffered to grow for ſome Time, yet it has at laſt been ever the Subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry, and in the worſt of Times, when the Miniſters of King *Charles* II. endeavoured to corrupt the Parliament, even that Parliament at laſt turned againſt them.

There is an innate Virtue in the Generality of our Countrymen, that won't ſuffer them long to bear any Oppreſſion whatſoever. The firſt *William* was ſoon ſenſible of this, therefore he claimed the Crown under the Teſtament of *Edward* the *Confeſſor*, wiſely declining the Title of *Conqueror*, and foreſeeing that they might eaſily ſubmit to a Title founded (as it were) upon a tacit Election; when they would oppoſe *One* that carried along with it, the odious Remembrance of Conqueſt and Slavery; yet on the other hand it muſt be ſaid, that no People

People in the Univerſe (I mean the Generality) ever had a more religious Obſervance and Reſpect to the Laws of their Country, however hard and uneaſy ſome of them might have been. How long, and how patiently did they bear the Inquiſition (if I may be allow'd the Expreſſion) of the *Star-chamber*, and the Oppreſſions of the Court of *Wards* and *Liveries*, only becauſe they had the Sanction of the Law? So that it is not a wanton Licentiouſneſs, or Impatience of lawful Power, that animates them to Mutiny, but a juſt and conſiderate Averſion to a corrupt and libertine Adminiſtration, a generous Diſdain of being Slaves and Vaſſals to their Fellow-Subjects, and an honeſt Concern for the Dignity of their Prince, and the Welfare of their Country.

Evil Miniſters have been ſo far convinc'd of that awful Reſpect our Countrymen have for their Prince, that they have generally proſtituted the ſacred Name of Majeſty, to cover the moſt flagitious Deſigns, and under the Colour of *his* Neceſſities, or *his* Will, endeavour'd to ſtifle any Enquiry into their Conduct; but happy for us, the Laws of *England* have made the *Adviſers* of any Thing againſt the Intereſt of the Commonwealth, as criminal as the *Executioners:* And what Artifice, what Eloquence, what Force of Bribery, what Number of Friends or Dependants has avail'd, againſt a Nation irritated with the Oppreſſions, or Miſconduct of thoſe, who have formerly ſuffer'd for Male-Adminiſtration? But alas! How few Friends does any Man find in ſuch a Circumſtance? Even thoſe, who have received his Money, however privately, are betrayed by their own Guilt, and afraid to appear in ſuch a Cauſe, whilſt others are pleaſed to think they have a juſt Pretence for their withdrawing their Friendſhip from a Man, who is charg'd

charg'd with breaking all Laws Human and Divine, and who, on this Occaſion, is almoſt as ſurely Guilty, as he is accus'd. It has indeed, ſometimes happened otherways, and ſometimes the moſt flagitious Conduct has eſcap'd for Want of that clear legal Evidence, which the Indulgence of our Laws requires, in Favour of Life and Property: But what a wretched Figure does that Man make in his Country, who is known to have been acquitted only by the Forms of the Law, who by his Conduct, has impreſs'd in every Man's Heart, the Characters of his Iniquity, and by an infamous Cunning (a Circumſpection which indeed proves the Guilt) eludes the Rigours of his Puniſhment? On the Contrary, how noble, how elevated, and how glorious is the Character of that Patriot, who regardleſs of himſelf, and deſpiſing the Contumely of ill Men, however numerous, oppoſed the wicked Counſels of the moſt Powerful, and ruſh'd into Danger to reſcue his Country from their polluted Hands, who would have ſacrificed it to their Folly and Ambition? And who, like *Nero*, ſeem'd, when they conferr'd on Office, to give theſe Inſtructions: *You know what I have Occaſion for; let it be your Care, as it ſhall be mine, that No-body elſe have any Thing.*

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 42. *Monday, Auguſt* 1, 1726.

——Non illo juſſos ſolertius alter
Exprimit inceſſus, vultumque modumque loquendi,
Adjicit et veſtes, et conſuetiſſima cuique
Verba.—— OVID. Metam.

AFFECTATION is a vain Humour of endeavouring to appear what we are not, and therefore it is, that when People take notice of any one who is remarkable for ſome particular Quality which diſtinguiſhes him, they ſtrive by their Imitation to make themſelves conſiderable, and hope to come in for Part of his Applauſe; and if this Emulation went no farther than in Things really laudable, it could not be condemned: But the Generality of the World is too apt to ſet up a Standard of its own, and aſcribe Merit to thoſe Things, which are ſo far from being commendable, that they are a Diſgrace to the Poſſeſſors of them. There are ſome Men, who from the very Nature of the Circumſtances, are conſcious they cannot arrive to an equal Glory with their Heroe, yet imagine that by following him in ſome little Action, or Mode of Life, they ſhall be looked upon with a particular Reſpect. I remember, when Prince *Eugene* was in *England*, every Body crowded to behold ſo renowned a Warrior, and according to the different Humours of Spectators, were pleaſed to think that they

they reſembled him either in their Stature, Motion, Complexion or Addreſs. This great Captain had one Thing particular in his Manner, eaſily imitable, which was the taking of a great deal of Snuff. This *Mode* from hence became ſo univerſal, that you would hardly ſee any Men of Faſhion without a Snuff-box, which was eſteemed, at that Time, little inferior in Honour to a *Truncheon*. And I have often obſerved ſeveral Officers of the *Militia* ſoon after at the Head of their Companies, whoſe upper Lips have been *totally eclips'd* with plain *Spaniſh*, and ſtrutted under this Diſguiſe with an Air of as much Importance, as if they had juſt come from beating the *Turks*.

Every Body muſt have heard, that the full-bottom Peruke was firſt invented to hide the Hump Back of a Duke of *Burgundy*, yet this unnatural Dreſs ſo far prevailed even here in *England*, that he looked upon himſelf the moſt like a Man of Quality, who carried on his Head the moſt Ounces of Hair.

We all remember an illuſtrious Family, that the Parent happily preſided over our Armies and Councils abroad, whilſt his beautiful Offſpring gave Laws to our Faſhions and Dreſs at Home, inſomuch that all our Ladies were ſtudious to imitate them with the utmoſt Exactneſs, vainly hoping, that if they could reſemble them in their Habit, they might ſhare with them the Triumphs of their Beauty. This was however an uſeful Emulation, and could not fail of ſetting them in the moſt advantageous Light, and at leaſt procure them the Title of *Agreeable*: But tho' my pretty Countrywomen have ſucceeded in this ſingle Inſtance, yet I cannot without Concern obſerve, how many of them have loſt themſelves on theſe Quickſands of Imitation, and ſunk into a ridiculous *Mimickry*.

Puerpera

Puerpera is the Mother of many Children, and ſtricken in Years, yet will ſhe not give over her Pretenſions to Youth and Beauty. Her Stays are cut down as low as her youngeſt Daughter's; her Pinner is ſet back, and at preſent ſhe paints after the Complexion of the beautiful Lady *W——e.*

Peloria, is ſix Foot high, and the Bulk of a *Grenadier*; but her Imagination quick and nimble: This ſets her foremoſt in all Aſſemblies and Balls; and becauſe Lady *F——s* excels in Dancing, and is admired for her Grace and eaſy Motion, *Peloria* will be her Rival; every Body ſtares at the moving Machine, and is glad when the Dance is over for fear her Weight ſhould bring the Houſe about their Ears.

Ironia has read ſome Books, and from hence concludes herſelf learned. She deſpiſes her own Sex, becauſe they don't underſtand the hard Words ſhe introduces into Converſation, and they in Return, laugh at her, becauſe ſhe ſtrives to be unintelligible. In an Aſſembly not long ago, talking of the different Powers of our two famous *Songſtreſſes*, ſhe expreſſed herſelf in this Manner; *'Tis my Opinion* (ſays ſhe) *that* Fauſtina *excels in the* Crummatick *and* Catſoni *in the* Harmonick: Monſieur *Toupet*, who is entirely careleſs of what he ſays, told her, *at that rate we have two of the moſt thorough-bred Singers in* Europe, *for if* Fauſtina *is ſuperior in the* Crummatick, *to his Knowledge no Body was equal to his Friend* Boſchi *in the* Cruſtick. This he delivered with ſo malicious a Sneer, that every Body perceived the Miſtake of *Ironia*, which was followed by ſo loud a Laugh, that ſhe was forced to leave the Company.

I ſhall conclude theſe Remarks with an Obſervation I made ſome Years ago, when my *Country-women* opened to us a new Scene of Wonders upon the

the Back of their Necks, where all Impediments being removed, we might plainly discover the Whiteness of their Shoulders. The Reason of this Fashion some have attributed to that Thirst of Dominion so natural to the Sex, that they thought themselves not sure of Conquest, unless they could wound behind as well as before; but I rather believe it proceeded from the servile Imitation of some great Lady, whose Beauty like that of a *Tortoise*, lay only in her Back.

I hope, no Body will on this Occasion make any particular Application of these Characters, the Design of this Paper not being so much to expose, as to prevent those little Follies and Absurdities, which render the Fair Sex ridiculous or disagreeable; it will be time enough when any greater, flagrant Vice occurs to me, to describe the Proprietors in such Colours as no one can mistake them, and like a careful *Watchman* hang Lights before such Persons as may be dangerous to approach or converse with. As for the Danger that may ensue from hence, I'm entirely regardless of it, being resolved in this Point to meddle with no Characters but those whom it will be a Scandal to justify. All the Favour I ask is, that I may be read with Candour, and if People will make use of Prejudice, let them apply to the Author, and not to his Writings.

The following Epistle was sent me from *Shrewsbury*, which being the first Correspondent I have had from those remote Parts, I must give it a Place in this Paper.

SIR, *Shrewsbury, July* 25, 1726.

BEing truly informed of the cordial Advice you give to our Sex at the least Request, gives me Encouragement to apply myself to you as a sure Refuge in my most unhappy Circumstances. I was at a Ball the other

other Night, where I put on all my Charms, and equipped myself up to the best Advantage that possibly I could, and being reckoned very handsome, soon captivated the Hearts of all the young Gentlemen there; but among the rest was a rich old Fellow, above threescore Years of Age, who swore he loved me as dear as his own Life, and if I would but have him, he would make me his Wife the very next Morning, which he confirmed with the most execrable Oaths he could think of. I was once in a Humour to have taken him in the Mind, which I wish to God I had, for the next Day he came to Town on purpose to pay me a Visit, so enquired after my Fortune, which in short was none at all, for which Reason he went away and has never been near me since. I'm serv'd so in general by all my Lovers, which is now the Cause of my writing to you, to desire so compleat a Judge as your self to advise me what is best to do in this Affair, which shall be ever acknowledged by your sincere Friend and very humble Servant,

SALL. SOMEBODY.

As there are a great many more in this Lady's Case, I shall treat of it more at large in another Paper.

I have received my ingenious Correspondent *A. N*——'s Essay concerning bad Wives, which I shall do myself the Pleasure to publish very soon.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 43. *Friday, Auguſt* 5, 1726.

Veniunt a dote ſagittæ.

IT is a common Complaint among Ladies of great Perfections and little or no Fortunes, that at preſent their Accompliſhments ſerve only as ſo many Incitements to the baſe Appetites of wicked and deſigning Men, and gain them no more Honour than that perhaps of being a public Toaſt, or the Subject of ſome looſe Piece of Poetry. All the diſtinguiſh'd Graces of Nature, and the Cares of a pious and elegant Education, have no other Effect, than to make the Conqueſt more conſiderable, and the Raviſher more glorious. *Hymen*, who us'd to pitch his Tents among the Virtuous, the Beautiful, the Agreeable, has changed his Situation, and the Rich alone are looked upon now, as the only Objects qualified for the conjugal State: In ſhort, Marriage, which was deſigned for the Improvement and Felicity of Mankind, is now dwindled into a Contract for ſo much Money.

The Lover very often never ſees his Miſtreſs till the Bargain is made, and is juſt allowed ſo much Time for Courtſhip, as the Lawyers are pleaſed to take in drawing up the Marriage-Settlement. Hence proceed thoſe Indifferences and Diſguſts, thoſe Jars and Contentions, which generally attend People in theſe Circumſtances. *Plutarch* ſays, the Ancients uſed to ſet the Statue of *Mercury* by that of

of *Venus*, to signify, the Pleasures of Matrimony chiefly consist in Sweetness of Conversation; and the *Graces* and *Suadela* by the same Goddess, to shew, that married Persons are to act by Persuasion. But were we to communicate to Posterity the present Circumstances of a married State in this Age, instead of the *Graces*, we should place the *Furies* near this amiable *Goddess*, to represent those Broils and Contentions, which spring from the Discord of two Persons of different Humours, and who were only coupled, because their avaritious Parents thought it a *Smithfield* Bargain. Strange! That in one of the greatest Events of Life, and where their Happiness or Misery entirely depends upon a Harmony or Disunion of Tempers, Children should be forced to live together, whether they have an Inclination for it or no, and very often without being the least acquainted with one another's Humours.

It was a Custom among the *Spartans* to allow no Dowry to be given with their Children, that none might be slighted for their Poverty or courted for their Wealth; but all chosen for their Agreeableness, Virtue, and Good-Manners: And to this Day the *Ostiacks*, a People of *Siberia*, otherwise barbarous enough in their Customs, always buy their Wives of their Parents, who at the Time of the Delivery of them to their new Sons-in-law, recommended to them to live in constant Friendship, and love one another as Man and Wife ought to do. Happy would it be for *this* Country if these Customs prevailed here; that the Virtuous, the Beautiful, the Agreeable and Well-bred, might be provided for, and not have the Pain to see Pride and Insolence, Ill-Nature and Ignorance, Deformity and Aukwardness domineer in all publick Places, and by the Blaze of their Ornaments, fix the Attention of the Beholder. Had these Me-

thods been practiſed here, how many beautiful Creatures that inhabit our Stews, or hide themſelves in Lurking-holes of Infamy, and pine under a Complication of Want and loathſome Diſtempers, would have been the Pride and Comfort of their Parents, and the Ornaments of their own Families? But Gold, the Author of all Evil, has raiſed itſelf above all Degrees of Merit, and is made to deſtroy *that*, which it ſhould have been applied to preſerve. After having long conſidered whether or no it might be poſſible to find out an Expedient for this great Evil, I have at laſt reſolved on the following Method.

1ſt. That one Monaſtery or more ſhall be built in every County of *Britain*, where all Virgins from the Age of Thirteen ſhall be ſent, and put under the Care of ſome diſcreet Matrons, (who are alſo to be choſen by the County) and there to be taught and inſtructed in every Art and Science which is neceſſary for the Management of a Family, and the Improvement of their Minds in Religion and Virtue, and agreeable Converſation.

2dly. That four Years after, by which Time they will have attained the Age of Seventeen, theſe young Maidens ſhall be offered in Marriage by Way of Lottery, in the Manner following, *viz.* The Beautiful, at ſo much; the Agreeable, at ſo much; and the reſt in Proportion to their Accompliſhments, with an Augmentation or Abatement of Value, in Proportion to their natural Endowments or acquired Virtues.

3dly. After the Prices are affixed to every Virgin, and the Sum Total known, by which Means the Value of every Ticket may be aſcertained, as well as the Number limited, as many Batchelor-Adventurers may be allowed to ſubſcribe as there are

are Tickets, upon paying for every Ticket the Price named.

4thly. As ſoon as the whole Number ſhall be ſubſcribed, in which there ſhall be no Preference, but always yielded to the firſt Comer, the Lottery ſhall be drawn, and the Number drawn on the Batchelors Side anſwering the Number drawn on the Virgins Side, ſhall entitle each Batchelor to take ſuch Virgin to his Wife, with this *Proviſo* always, that if ſuch Batchelor have any Diſlike, he may refuſe, forfeiting the Money paid for his Ticket; or if the Virgin deny, his Money muſt be reſtored to him again.

5thly. The Money ariſing from theſe Forfeitures ſhall in all future Lotteries be added to the Merits of ſuch Virgins, whoſe Want of Beauty or Agreeableneſs, has been the Occaſion of them.

6thly. That becauſe many People from the Narrowneſs of their Circumſtances may not be able to maintain their Children in theſe Monaſteries, and yet it may be highly advantageous to the Commonwealth, that they ſhould be placed there, it will be neceſſary to raiſe a Fund for their Support and Maintenance; which may be done, by making all Marriages deemed unlawful, that have not Certificates from ſuch Monaſteries, over and above the common Certificates allowed by the Law, and for which a certain Sum muſt for the future be paid, for the Uſe of ſuch indigent Virgins.

7thly. And for the Promotion and better Encouragement of this great and uſeful Work, it ſhall not be permitted to any Perſon whatſoever, to give any Money or Dower with any Daughter in Marriage, but ſuch Money or Dower ſhall be adjudged forfeited for the Uſe of ſuch Monaſteries aforeſaid.

8thly. Nor ſhall it be permitted for any Parent, by Way of Gift in their Life-time, or by their laſt

Will and Teſtament, to give away any Portion, Money, or Lands, or let any Leaſes, or grant any Annuities to their Daughters, but the Brothers of ſuch Perſons may immediately ſeize ſuch Money, or enter upon ſuch Eſtates, or retain ſuch Portions for their own Uſe, the better to enable them to maintain ſuch a Wife which Fortune may allot them, out of the Houſes aforeſaid.

Provided always, That if it ſhould happen to be a Brother's Lot, or any other Relation within the Degrees prohibited, to have their Number come up againſt the Number of their Siſter, or any other ſuch Relation aforeſaid, in ſuch a Caſe they ſhall not be liable to a Forfeiture, but have their Money returned again.

Provided alſo, That nothing herein contained ſhall be conſtrued to prohibit or reſtrain any other Virgin under the Age of One and Twenty, to enter into the ſaid Monaſteries, and enjoy all the Privileges and Advantages aforeſaid.

Were this once reduced to Practice, it would doubtleſs prevent many of thoſe Calamities, which at preſent draw Sighs and Tears from afflicted Parents, and overwhelm the Young and Beautiful with irretrievable Ruin.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 44. *Monday*, *Auguſt* 8, 1726.

Curæ leves loquuntur, ingentes ſtupent.

THERE are ſome Afflictions ſo great, that they ſhut up all the Avenues of Conſolation, and prevent even the ſad Relief of Sighs and Tears: All Nature ſuffers at once within us, and the Soul is, as it were, frighted

frighted from its Habitation, and leaves the Body helpleſs and unable to take Care of itſelf. 'In the 'War that *Ferdinand* made upon a Queen of *Hun-* 'gary, a Soldier was diſtinguiſhed for his ſingular 'Gallantry in a certain Encounter, and tho' un- 'known, his Death was univerſally lamented, but 'by nobody ſo much as a *German* Lord, who was 'infinitely enamoured of ſo unparallel'd a Virtue. 'The Armour of this Hero was no ſooner taken 'off, but the *Count* coming to view the Body, 'knew him to be his Son: *He*, without uttering 'one Word, or turning away his Eyes from the 'woeful Object, ſtood fix'd, contemplating the 'Body of his Son, till exceſs of Sorrow having 'overcome his vital Spirits, made him ſink down 'ſtone-dead to the Ground.'

If we conſider the Circumſtance of this unhappy Parent in this diſmal Cataſtrophe, whoſe whole Thoughts and Wiſhes were confined to the Welfare and Happineſs of his Child; and perhaps at the very Inſtant that he was meditating his Advancement and Glory, to meet him thus unexpectedly in the Arms of Death; at a Time too, when his Compaſſion was raiſed to the utmoſt Height for the unmerited Fate of an imagin'd Stranger: I ſay, in ſuch a Diſtreſs, he gave himſelf for loſt, and was unable to caſt about for any Means of Relief, even Sorrow forſook him, and the Springs of Life were diſabled by the Weight of the Calamity. He that often met Death in all its horrid Shapes, and had ſtood unconcern'd amidſt the ſad Variety of Blood and Slaughter in Battle, while puſh'd on by a Principle of Honour, or animated by a juſt Revenge in the Cauſe of his Country, in this mournful Event loſes all his Reſolution and Conſtancy. Ambition and Glory is now no more, ſince he is deprived of all, for which he could wiſh

to

to live; this was the Sum of all his Hopes and Cares, the Center of all thoſe Lines that compoſed his Happineſs; the very Principle of Life and Motion. There is nothing left—Nature cannot ſupport herſelf under ſo great a Burthen——but ſinks into the Boſom of Death.

Hiſtory tells us, that even *Cato* himſelf, the ſtedfaſt and inflexible *Cato*, gave himſelf up to immoderate Grief for the Death of his Brother *Cæpio:* He poured out Floods of Tears, and ſpent whole Hours in the ineffectual Embraces of his dead Body; but *then* he had a greater Concern; he ſaw the Tide of Power rolling on, which was to overwhelm the beſt Government in the World; he ſaw the iron Hands of Tyranny lifted up to deſtroy the Liberties of his Country. This inſpired him with a Reſolution to bear great Afflictions, that he might be able to oppoſe thoſe Deſigns, which were to bring on the greateſt: But ſee him in the laſt *Cataſtrophe* of his Life; when the Cauſe was deſperate, for which he endur'd ſo many Toils and Dangers, when his Country was no more; quitting his Friends and Children with a calm Reſignation, and embracing Death without a Murmur; nor in all Probability had he ſaid a Word at his Departure, had not his Son taken away the Sword, which he deſigned as his Paſſport to long Eternity, which he expoſtulates in this gentle Manner. 'And you, 'ſays he, do you think to keep a Man of my Age 'alive by Force? and do you ſit ſilent here to 'watch me? or can you bring any Reaſon to 'prove, that it is not baſe and unworthy *Cato*, 'when he can find his Safety no other Way, to 'ſeek it from his Enemy? Or why do you not 'perſuade us, to unlearn what we have been taught, 'that rejecting all the Opinions we have hitherto 'eſtabliſhed, we may now, by *Cæſar*'s Means,

'grow

'grow wiſer, and be yet more obliged to him,
'than for Life only? Not that I have determined
'ought concerning myſelf, but I would have it in
'my Power to perform what I ſhall think fit to
'reſolve, and I ſhall not fail to aſk your Counſel,
'when I have Occaſion to uſe what your Philoſo-
'phy teaches; in the mean Time, don't trouble
'yourſelves, but go tell my Son, that he ſhould
'not compel his Father, to what he cannot per-
'ſuade him.'

But alas! On theſe Occaſions, what avail'd the Precepts of Philoſophy? and what Relief could theſe brave Spirits find in the cold Admonitions of *Schoolmen?* The *Stoicks* ſay, 'tis a Sign of Cowardice, not to bear the Calamities of Life, and thus they would avoid the Imputation of Fear, by undergoing the Shame of Puniſhment: But Reaſon is not always at Leiſure, to attend to theſe Documents, and ſometimes the Diſtreſs is ſo great, that even Reaſon has been call'd in to adminiſter to the putting an End to our Afflictions. This was the State of the World, during the dark Days of Ignorance, and the voluntary Death of the *Romans*, gave a Luſtre to their Characters. But the *Chriſtian* Religion, has opened to us a new Scene of Happineſs; Joys inexpreſſible, and of an eternal Duration in another Life: It has taught us to ſuffer all the Stings and Agonies of Diſappointment and Pain, with the utmoſt Reſignation; and as Immortality is a Matter of the greateſt Importance, it has raiſed a new Concern in the Mind, far above any Regard for the Affairs of this Life; and therefore, always leaves us ſomething to hope for, even in the moſt uncomfortable Situation of Pain, or Poverty. I think, I cannot do better Service to the Publick, than in publiſhing the following Lines, which were ſent me t'other Day by an unknown Hand. *On*

On RELIGION.

COME, view Religion in her native Charms,
Diſperſing Bleſſings with indulgent Arms.
From her fair Eyes, what heav'nly Rays are ſpread?
What blooming Joys ſmile round her bliſsful Head?
Offspring Divine! By thee we bleſs the Cauſe;
Who found the World, and rules it by his Laws;
His independant Being we adore,
Extol his Goodneſs, and revere his Power.
Our wand'ring Eyes, his high Perfections view;
The lofty Comtemplation we purſue,
Tranſported we the great Idea find
Shining in bright Impreſſions on our Mind.
Inſpir'd by thee, Gueſt of celeſtial Race,
With generous Love, we Human kind embrace;
We Provocations unprovok'd receive
Patient of Wrong, and eaſy to forgive;
Protect the Orphan, plead the Widow's Cauſe,
Nor deviate from the Line, unerring Juſtice draws.

Yours, T. Y.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 45. *Friday*, *Auguſt* 12, 1726.

Omne malum naſcens facile opprimitur, inveteratum fit plerumque robuſtius. CIC.

To the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

SIR, *Old Windſor*, *Auguſt* 10.

'THE Contents of the following Story, falling properly under your Cognizance, as *intendant General of the Manners and Policy of Great-Britain*, I deſire you will publiſh it for the Benefit of all ſuch

'as

' as it may concern. Some Time ago, there came ' a Perſon from the *North*, whoſe Name is *Mel-* ' *drum*, and ſettled in this Quarter of the Coun- ' try; he was a prating merry Fellow, and waſted ' his little Patrimony in intriguing and caballing ' with the People, in Order to procure ſome ' Office in the Pariſh, which after ſome Time he ' obtained; he talk'd ſo much in the Veſtry, that ' many of the Pariſhioners began to think him a ' notable Man, inſomuch that he roſe from one ' Poſt to another, till at laſt he was made *Pay-* ' *maſter to the Workhouſe*. It happen'd, not long ' after, that the Steward of the Lord of the Ma- ' nor having embezzled his Maſter's Money, and ' drawn in a great many of the Tenants into a ' ridiculous Project, that ruin'd moſt of them, ' and not knowing how to extricate himſelf other- ' ways, he adviſed his Maſter to conſtitute this ' Man his Steward, as *one* he thought, that had ' an Influence over the People of the Pariſh, and ' moſt likely therefore, to compoſe Matters a- ' mongſt them; accordingly Mr. *Meldrum* was ' appointed to examine the Matter, and call the ' Projectors to an *Account*, who had thus roguiſh- ' ly drawn in ſome of the Tenants to the Loſs ' of almoſt their whole Eſtates; and others of a ' great Part of them. Upon looking into this ' Affair, Mr. *Meldrum* found ſeveral of the moſt ' conſiderable Men of the Pariſh had been con- ' cern'd in it, and therefore, rather than expoſe ' them, he made the People believe, that the beſt ' Way to ſettle Matters was to have a Fine laid ' upon the *Clerk of the Veſtry*, and about *thirty* ' *Fiſhermen*, who were moſt concern'd in this Pro- ' ject, and then he told 'em, all would go well ' enough. People were not very well pleas'd with ' this Propoſal of Mr. *Meldrum*, knowing very

' well

'well, that there were ſeveral other of the Lord's 'Tenants, that were very conſiderable Men, who 'had come in for a Share of the Plunder, and 'therefore, they expected they ſhould be brought 'to Account; but however, Mr. *Meldrum* ma-'nag'd the Affair ſo, that the Devil a Bit were 'theſe Fellows *fin'd* at all, though every Body 'knew they were equally guilty.

'As ſoon as Mr. *Meldrum* had got this Matter 'over, he told them in a very formal Speech, 'that there was that Jumble and Confuſion of 'Accounts, and ſuch Waſte had been made of 'their Money, that unleſs ſome of 'em would 'be content to give away half their Eſtates to the 'others, they could never ſettle Matters, upon 'any tolerable Foot; for, my Lord would other-'ways inſiſt upon ſeven hundred Pounds, which 'theſe Fellows had agreed to give him, for Fiſh-'ing in his Manor. This Propoſal was look'd 'upon to be ſo unjuſt, that Abundance of the 'Tenants proteſted loudly againſt it, and abuſed 'Mr. *Meldrum* in all publick Places, and did not 'ſcruple to talk very freely of the reſt of my 'Lord's Family; but however, one Way or other, 'theſe poor People were forced to conſent to this 'Propoſal. After this Difficulty was got over, 'Mr. *Meldrum* call'd a Court, and told the Te-'nants and the Pariſhioners, that he had found 'out a new Project, which would conſiderably 'advance the Value of their Eſtates. *You all 'know Gentlemen*, (ſays he) *Mr.* Gripe, *the Pawn-'Broker, a cloſe and a ſafe Man, and Mr.* Callicoe, *'the Merchant, a great Dealer, worth the Lord 'knows what. I have ſpoke with theſe two ho-'neſt Gentlemen, and they have agreed to let you 'go in Partnerſhip with them (in Conſideration of 'your Sufferings; lately in that laſt unhappy Af-'fair,)*

'*fair*,) *at a very moderate Price. In ſhort, Gentlemen, 'tis a good Bargain, and a fine Opportunity for you to recover your Loſſes.* A great many of the credulous poor People gap'd, and believ'd now their Fortunes would be made, but ſome of the Tenants, who underſtood *Arithmetick*, upon examing this Matter more narrowly, found that Mr. *Gripe* inſiſted upon having twenty Pounds down, for about ſix Shillings and eight Pence a Year, as long as he ſhould Trade. As for Mr. *Collicoe*, he offered indeed near fifteen Shillings a Year for the like Sum, but, then they were to be Security for his Debts, and every Body believ'd, he ow'd as much as he was worth. Upon the Repreſentation of this Matter to the reſt of the Tenants, Mr. *Meldrum*'s Project was laugh'd at, and conſequently laid aſide. When this would not do, and the Scarcity of Money continuing, Mr. *Meldrum* bethought himſelf of another Project, which was, to print Tickets for Money, payable in a ſhort Time with Intereſt, out of his Maſter's Rents: This had a very good Effect, for every Body knew, my Lord was a very honeſt Man, and that his Rents were well paid; and in a very little Time, theſe Tickets were eſteem'd better than Money.

'Another Accident happen'd at the ſame Time, which contributed very much to help Mr. *Meldrum*, which was, that the Executors of a certain great Lord in the Neighbourhood, wanted to put out a great Sum, for the Benefit of his Children, and this they offered at a low Intereſt, upon the Security of his Maſter's Eſtate. Mr. *Meldrum* knew very well, what an Advantage this would be to his Maſter's Affairs. And therefore, 'tis to be mention'd to his Honour, that he ſoon cloſed with them, and now in a

'little

'little Time, all former Hardſhips were forgot. 'Money became plentiful, the Tenants went about 'their ſeveral Employments, a new Set of Fiſher- 'men were taken in, and Mr. *Meldrum* was 'look'd upon as the cleverest Fellow in the 'County: But notwithſtanding the Plenty, the 'neceſſary Conſequence of Tranquility, and that 'my Lord's Rents were never better paid, yet 'my Lord run every Year in Debt to his Tradeſ- 'men, and there was a vaſt Arrear of Wages 'due to his Servants. Every Body wonder'd 'how this ſhould come about, and ſome of the 'Tenants aſk'd Mr. *Meldrum* the Reaſon of it: 'All the Anſwer he gave them was, that he was 'ſure, both my Lord's Father and Grandfather 'ſpent more; and therefore, he hoped they would 'ſubmit to a ſmall *Fine*, to keep up the Gran- 'deur of ſo good a Landlord. The Tenants 'grumbled deviliſhly at this Propoſal; but how- 'ever, the Reſpect they had to their Landlord, 'who was the beſt Man in the World, and an 'Aſſeveration of Mr. *Meldrum*'s, that he would 'be *roaſted* if ever he made ſuch another Demand 'upon them, made 'em comply. In a very little 'Time, Mr. *Meldrum* call'd a Court, and told 'the Tenants in a very pathetick Manner, that 'though he had manag'd Matters with the ut- 'moſt Frugality, yet his Maſter had Occaſion 'for more Money, and hop'd, that they would 'not refuſe him this Time, for the Expences had 'been very great in making Fences, and paying 'Watchmen to keep the *Manor* from the In- 'croachment of the *Commons*, and *Deer* of the 'Neighbouring Foreſt. This ſecond Demand, 'made ſome of the Tenants very peeviſh, and 'ſome of them told him, *That he was not a Man 'of his Word*; others deſired to ſee his Accounts,

and

'and be satisfied whether or no there had been 'any Misapplication; but Mr. *Meldrum* answer'd, 'That the Creditors were in Haste to be paid, and 'looking over Books, would take up a great deal 'of Time; but if they would advance the Money 'immediately, they should have all the Satisfac- 'tion they desired. This Request of some of 'the Tenants, however reasonable, was oppos'd 'by others, to whom Mr. *Meldrum* had been 'very liberal, for he was reckoned no Churl of 'his Master's Wine or Victuals, and in short, he 'obtain'd this second Demand. All the old Te- 'nants and Well-wishers to my Lord, say, That 'notwithstanding this Bounty of theirs, he is as 'much in Debt as ever he was, and if he em- 'ploys Mr. *Meldrum* much longer, he will run 'out his Estate.'

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 46. *Monday, August* 15, 1726.

Vilis adulator picto jacet ebrius ostro. PET.

PLUTARCH says, *a Flatterer is the publick Enemy of the Gods, who endeavours to make every Man his own Cheat, and keep him ignorant of his own Qualities; by which Means the Good never arrive at Perfection, and the Bad never mend.*

A Flatterer indeed, is the most dangerous of Men, because the Evils he brings upon us, are under the Notion of Love and Friendship. We fortify ourselves against the Attacks of our Enemies,

mies, and guard ourſelves againſt all the Approaches of thoſe, whom we have any Cauſe to ſuſpect; but Vanity opens all the Avenues of our Souls to a *Paraſite*, and we are too apt to love him for applauding thoſe Qualities, which we often overvalue ourſelves for: Nor is it to be wonder'd at, that he ſucceeds ſo much, if Men will but reflect how often they conceive a ſecret Averſion for another, for not commending ſome peculiar Way of thinking, or any particular Habit of Life, to which they give a Preference. The Uneaſineſs that ariſes to moſt Men when they are confuted in an Argument, will clear up that common Obſervation, that People of Quality and Fortune, are ſo often ſeen in the Company of thoſe of the loweſt Reputation of Underſtanding: They think their Birth and Fortune gives them a Title alſo to Knowledge and Experience; and therefore, they chuſe rather to triumph over ſtupid Slaves and Sycophants, than put themſelves upon a Level with their own *Species*, for fear they ſhould have the Mortification of loſing that imaginary Superiority, and endure the Pain of Contradiction, though it be for the Improvement of their Underſtandings.

But methinks, it ſhould be ſufficient to deſtroy that Satisfaction, which ariſes from the Applauſe and Approbation of ſuch Men, when they conſider, that theſe Paraſites attend them for no other Reaſon, than Worms and Vermin are ſeen upon the nobleſt Plants and choiceſt Fruits, *to eat and devour*; and ſtay no longer than they are able to feed them.

And becauſe the nobleſt Natures are the leaſt apt to ſuſpect others, and conſequently moſt liable to the Impoſitions of Flattery, it may not be an uſeleſs Attempt to endeavour to diſtinguiſh between

tween the Paraſite and the Friend, that by this Means a worthy Man may not be impos'd upon by thoſe Artifices, which render him contemptible, where he aims to be meritorious.

Friendſhip is juſt and uniform, and tho' it delights in Commendation, is not profuſe of it, nor is it affraid of Reprehenſion, when it thinks it neceſſary. A true Friend, will not raſhly commend any Thing, but what really deſerves it: He will ſcorn to bear any Part in a diſhonourable Action, but the Flatterer, like the *Camelion*, puts on all Colours, and is never at a Loſs for a Habit of Compliance. When *Antipater* deſired *Phocion* to do an indirect Thing; his Anſwer was, *You cannot have* Phocion *your Friend and Flatterer*. And *Xenophon* ſays of *Ageſilaus*, *he loved to be praiſed by them, who would ſometimes reprove him.*

That Friendſhip ſeem'd to be leaſt ſuſpicious, that deſcends from Proſperity, and continues in Adverſity; becauſe, it not only ſhews the Diſintereſtedneſs of Love, but adds to it the Cement of Gratitude. A Man that is active in the Service of another, and chearfully goes through Labour and Danger; one who is ſedulous in his Character, and watches all Opportunities of ſhewing his Actions in the beſt Light; one who neglects his own Intereſts, and is wholly intent upon the advancing *his*, ſurely carries about him all the *Criterion*'s of Friendſhip.

There is a churliſh Avarice in a Flatterer, that would endeavour to remove from his Patron all other Friends, however ſolid and ſerviceable, by ſecret Calumny; but true Friendſhip, loves all that loves him, and endeavours to promote their Intereſt for that very Reaſon. Thus might the true Friend always be diſcovered, were not Men more deſirous of gaining the Applauſe of new

Admirers, than satisfied, and attentive to the Behaviour and Affection of those, who sincerely love and esteem them.

The ancient *Menander* declared him to be happy, that had the good Fortune to meet with but the Shadow of a Friend. How much more exalted then, must their Happiness be, who enjoy this glorious Commerce, with an unlimitted Confidence, founded upon such a reciprocal Union of Affections, as excludes all Possibility of Suspicion, and adds a Security to their Joys: In this glorious Situation, the Soul enlarges its Dominion, and as the most sublime Idea of human Felicity is, when the Mind leaves the Confines of this Body, so true Friendship gives us a Glimmering of those immortal Transports in another Life, whilst it affords so sweet a Satisfaction here, in the Transition of the Soul (as it were) to another Person; the Pleasures of this invaluable Virtue are finely expressed by *Horace*, in his Complaints for the Loss of a Friend, who was most dear to him.

Illam meæ si partem animæ tulit
Maturior vis, quid moror altera,
Nec charius æque nec superstes
Integer? Ille dies utramque
Duxit ruinam.——

But they are yet more fully described in that generous Concern and honest Delight, which the Author of the following Poem shews for the Recovery of his Friend from a dangerous Fit of Sickness, from whose Endeavours he may expect to see all that can contribute to the Glory of the best Prince in the World, and the Happiness and Honour of his Country.

At

At length our Sorrows ceaſe, our Fears are o'er,
And anxious Doubts diſturb our Peace no more;
P——y *ſtill lives; the Gods reſolv'd to ſave,*
Watch'd o'er his Bed, and ſnatch'd him from the Grave.
Indulgent to our Hopes, vouchſaf'd to ſmile,
And kept him for a Bulwark to our Iſle,
Not yet, for ſo propitious Heaven ordains,
Shall P——y *tread the bleſt Elyſian Plains;*
Nor to theſe happy Realms untimely go,
Where Sommer's *charms the Patriot Shades below;*
Where Stanhope *anxious for* Britannia's *Fate,*
With Walſingham *and* Burleigh *holds Debate.*
On Cowper's *Lips where ſtill new Graces ſhine,*
And Wharton *mourns his falſe degen'rate Line.*
Ere yet his mortal Frame ſhall yield to Fate,
And enter Death's inevitable Gate,
New Labours for his Country muſt he bear,
Still more illuſtrious Toils demand his Care,
Of their falſe Guiſe to ſtrip Britannia's *Foes,*
The dark Deſigns of Traitors to diſcloſe,
To execute what publick Faith commands,
And guard our Treaſure from rapacious Hands.
To raiſe up Merit, Virtue's Cauſe to fight,
And check Ambition in its boldeſt *Flight.*
Such glorious Omens, fix'd with Brunſwick's *Cauſe,*
From P——y's *Life the Muſe preſaging draws.*
Still Britain *in his Counſels ſhall rejoice,*
And future Ages bleſs his uncorrupted *Voice.*

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 47. *Friday*, *Auguſt* 19, 1726.

Prodigia & mores urbis damnante canopo. JUV.

To the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

SIR,

'I Deſire you will endeavour to regulate 'the Ill-breeding of our Town Ladies, 'of which I will give you an Inſtance. I 'went t'other Day to return my Viſits 'to my Friends, and finding few at Home, I ſup-'poſe ſome might be denied, which I know is 'cuſtomary; but it happened at one Place, they 'ſaid the Lady was Abroad, when at the ſame 'Time I ſaw her looking out of the Window. 'Having liv'd in the Country for ſome Time, 'and not being very well acquainted with the 'preſent Manners of the Town, I would willing-'ly be informed by you, how to behave myſelf 'in this Affair, and whether or no you think 'this was deſigned as an Affront. I ſhall ſuſpend 'my Reſentment till I have your Thoughts on 'this Matter, for which I wait with the utmoſt 'Impatience, being very much moved with ſuch 'a Behaviour to a Perſon ſo much her Superior, 'as is

Sir, your humble Servant,

A. B.

This

This Lady would not have had any Trouble on this Account, if she had distinguished between a Friend and an Acquaintance. In the Country, where People conduct themselves by a Principle of Honesty and a Simplicity of Manners, they are apt to look upon one another with an Air of Friendship, but in Town it is quite otherways; for *here* nothing is current but Artifice and Dissimulation. The Houses are open *here* but upon State-Days, and you are admitted, only to administer to their Grandeur, or when they have no mind to be alone. You can't imagine how much it embarrasses one of these Ladies to find an Entertainment for a Country Acquaintance; for as their Hearts are set on nothing but the *Modes*, Intrigues, or public Shews of the Town, which Way can you in the least contribute to their Curiosity or Pleasure? I must inform you, that they consider their Acquaintance as they do their Cloaths, of which, tho' they affect a great Variety, yet they will put them on, or lay them aside just as they please; or rather, *as the Maggot bites.*

Hilaria, one Day will see nothing but Men; the next Day she forms a private Party at *Quadrille*; and the third, her Doors are open to all Comers; the fourth she goes abroad; the fifth she sees no body; without ever asking herself the Reason why she does so; therefore you are not at all to be concern'd *at this barefac'd Denial of her Existence*; for as she first saw you without any Design, so now she refuses you without any Contempt. Have but a little Patience, and your Turn will come about again: 'Tis very probable you may think *this* an ungenerous Return for the Civilities you have shewn her at your own House; but I must tell you, there is not a greater Joke in the World amongst these Arch-Baggages, than to have been treated by

their Country Acquaintance with *a hearty Welcome.* They place nothing to your Account upon that Score, but look upon it only as the Effect of meer Cuſtom, and laugh in their Sleeves to think what a Puſs (as they call it) they have raiſed in the Family.

They eſteem it as an Honour done to you, to receive your Favours, and conclude the Obligation is to them, that they have given you ſo much of their Company: So that you cannot properly accuſe this Lady of Ingratitude, becauſe ſhe never thought herſelf indebted for the Benefit. Beſides, 'tis poſſible ſhe may think that you acted the ſame Part in the Country, as ſhe does in Town, and entertained her not ſo much for her Sake as your own; for People are apt to refine very much, rather than own themſelves in the Wrong. Upon the whole, I would adviſe you not to be concerned at this Behaviour, but rather look upon it as a Suſpenſion of Commerce, than a Declaration of War. If you reſent it, you do but augment her Triumphs, whilſt Neglect will either give her Time to recollect herſelf, or be a greater Vexation to her, than any Outrage you can commit; and then the proving her in the wrong will be no Manner of Advantage to you, in a Place, where there are ſo many Offenders of the ſame Sort, who inſtead of taking your Part, will laugh at your Complaint.

For my Part, I could wiſh this Ceremony was put upon a better Foot, and that no Body ſhould be underſtood to have diſcharged the Obligation of a Viſit, where the Viſitant was not actually admitted into the Preſence of the Party viſited. In order therefore to render this Sort of Commerce more juſt and equitable, I have reſolved on the following Method, to be uſed amongſt all Sorts and Degrees of People whatſoever.

Firſt,

Firſt, That when any Perſon comes to make a Viſit, and is not admitted, let the Occaſion be what it will, the Perſons viſited ſhall be obliged to ſend next Day to the Party ſo diſappointed, and give them the Choice of any three Days in the Week following to come and be admitted into their Preſence, and receive the Satisfaction of an Apology.

Secondly, That no Perſon ſo viſited and denied, ſhall preſume to go to the other injured Party's Houſe, before ſuch Satisfaction is made.

Thirdly, That after the twenty-fourth Day of *September* next, any Perſons may be denied, tho' they are ſeen at their Windows or Doors of their Houſes; nay, may have liberty to ſay themſelves, that they are not at Home, provided they make ſuch Satisfaction as is before expreſſed.

Fourthly, That where ſuch Satisfaction is not made, it ſhall be looked upon as a total Ceſſation of Commerce, and the Parties are ever after to be deemed, to all Intents and Purpoſes, entirely Strangers to one another.

Provided always, That theſe Forms are not to extend to poor Relations, Poets, or Phyſicians, who from the Nature of their Dependancies or Employments cannot be eſteemed in the Rank of common Viſiters and Acquaintance.

Provided alſo, That when any ſuch Accident has happened to any Country Friends or Acquaintance, a good Dinner be prepared for their Entertainment, over and above the Apology aforeſaid.

And for the better Regulation of Converſation in theſe ſmall Societies, it is prohibited, under the moſt ſevere Penalties, for any Perſon to ſpeak of thoſe that are abſent with malicious *Innendo's*, ſuch as, *I'm ſorry to hear ſuch a Thing of her or him,—or they ſay that——or the World will have it—or for my Part, I could never believe it, but People will*

talk. This is the Language of the vicious Part of the World, who are willing to remove all Obſervation from themſelves, and fix your Attention upon others. 'Tis the Policy of Iniquity, to blaſt the Characters of the moſt virtuous, and ſpread Infamy over the Face of the whole Earth.

My Correſpondents come ſo faſt upon me, that I hope I ſhall be excus'd for giving the following Letter a Place in this Paper.

SIR,

'I AM under theſe unhappy Circumſtances in 'Education: My Father being a Proteſtant, 'and my Mother a *Roman* Catholic, that I have 'many Doubts upon me, and know not which 'Religion to chuſe, and therefore think to leave 'it to my Huſband's Choice, when I get one; but 'in the mean time, I deſire you to ſolve me one 'Thing I ſcruple in the *Roman* Catholic Religion. 'My Mother, you muſt know, always takes me 'abroad with her, and keeping Company chiefly 'with thoſe of her own Church, we generally play 'at Cards on a *Sunday*, tho' we don't touch them 'all the Week beſides: This has given me ſome 'Averſion to her Religion, which being join'd with 'a Notion of other Abſurdities, has made me de'clare againſt it, till I hear from you. My Fa'ther brags much of his Religion, but has ſullied 'its Character by charging the Prieſts with Pride 'and Avarice, two inſupportable Vices, which if 'true, he ought not to have told me ſo, when he 'ſaw I was unſettled. You ſee, Sir, how it is, 'and I muſt deſire you, in as little Time as poſ'ſible, to fix me in one or other, tho' neither with'out Exception, and you will oblige, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

Aug. 5, 1726. SEMICATHOLICA.

I ſhall only give this ſhort Anſwer to this Lady's Epiſtle, That where the Eſſentials of Religion are convincing, you are not to be ſhock'd at the Impurity of ſome of its Prieſts. 'Tis not the Habit or Profeſſion, that gives Sanctity of Manners, but a thorough Perſuaſion, that the Scriptures were writ by the Finger of God, and that Rewards and Puniſhments will be proportioned according to our Compliance or Diſobedience to his Commands.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 48. *Monday, Auguſt* 22, 1726.

——*et hunc animis errorem detrahe.*

OVID.

IN my twenty-eighth Paper, I gave my Readers the Character of an ill Huſband, drawn in a Poem, which I hope met with a favourable Reception; the following Letter ſhews there may be ſuch Things as bad Wives.

To the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

SIR,

YOU will believe me a miſerable Man, when I tell you, I am married to an imprudent Woman, a Woman that is totally regardleſs of her domeſtic Affairs, and has no Notion that it is the Duty of a Wife to ſuperintend the Oeconomy of a Family, but ſpends her whole Time in making or receiving Viſits from one Month to another. Thoſe Hours that ſhould be employed

ployed in more important Concerns, are devoted to the Toilet, and in the Parlour: I can always find a Diamond Ring upon her Finger, but very ſeldom a Thimble: Notwithſtanding that ſince the Day of our Marriage I have behaved myſelf with the utmoſt Tenderneſs and Circumſpection, yet I evidently perceive her daily degenerate into an Indifference for my Company, and a Contempt of my Perſon. I ſhall not enter into a particular Detail of the Grievances I ſuffer from this her Averſion, but beg the Favour of you, Sir, to perſuade the Ladies in general, to take more Notice of their Huſbands, and ſpend more Time in regulating their Families at Home, than in Viſits abroad, which will oblige, among others,

Your moſt Humble Servant.

'I am always glad to ſuccour the Diſtreſſed, and 'have determined this Paper to the Service of my 'Correſpondent; but muſt inform him, I cannot 'offer ſo great an Affront to the Underſtandings 'of my fair Countrywomen to prove that Love 'and a reciprocal Eſteem is the leaſt Return they 'can make a Man, who has given himſelf wholly 'to their Service, and to render their own Lives 'eaſy and agreeable to themſelves: Therefore I 'ſhall only tell them a ſhort Story of an honeſt 'Pride, which a *Grecian* Spouſe once took in her 'Huſband. The Wife of *Phocion* entertained, 'one Day at her Houſe, a Stranger, a ſpruce Lady 'of *Ionia*, that in the Overflowings of her Vanity 'ſhewed her all her Finery of Gold Embroidery, 'Jewels, Bracelets, *&c.* For my Part, ſays the 'plain Matron, all my Ornament is my good Man '*Phocion*, who has commanded the *Athenians* now 'theſe twenty Years.

'I would hope likewiſe, that ſome, at leaſt, of 'my Female Readers are already too much con-

'vinced

'vinced of the Glory of good Houſewifery, which 'will therefore render a Diſcourſe on that Head, 'the leſs neceſſary. Balls and Aſſemblies may 'have been the Diverſions of the gayer Part of 'their Life, but after Marriage, their Employ-'ments ſhould be as much changed as their Names; 'and we may obſerve of the *Roman* Weddings, 'that in the Solemnity of conducting the Bride 'home to her Huſband's Houſe, two Boys went 'before them; one held a Diſtaff, and the other 'ſcattered Nuts: This tacitly informed the Lady 'that ſhe muſt now renounce the Puerilities of her 'maiden State, and that at the ſame Time gave 'her to underſtand what was now become her pro-'per Province in the new Condition ſhe was en-'tered into. Perhaps it will not be abſurd to re-'mark, that before Birds are aſſociated in Pairs, 'they are totally regardleſs of Futurity, but when 'once they are *married*, ſoon procure themſelves 'Neſts, and provide for the Welfare of a coming 'Family. If the good Houſewives think I have 'injured them by this Similitude, I cannot better 'make them Amends, than by producing the Au-'thority of one of the wiſeſt Men that ever lived, 'and aſſuring them, that in the Son of *Sirach*'s 'Opinion, *as the Sun, when he ariſeth in the high 'Heaven, ſo is the Beauty of a good Wife, in the 'ordering of her Houſe.*'

'I am come now to gratify the third Part of 'my Correſpondent's Requeſt, but ſhall find it, I 'fear, a difficult Taſk to wean the Fair Sex from 'their viſiting Days, and perſuade them to reduce 'their Number.

'And here, I have two diſtinct Parties to deal 'with. The Time, which our City Ladies con-'ſecrate for this valuable End is almoſt expired, 'when that, which thoſe of the Court employ in

'the

‘ the ſame Manner begins. One pays theſe cere-
‘ monial Pieces of Reſpect (for that I think is the
‘ beſt they can be called) in the Afternoon; the
‘ other, but little before Night; but tho' the In-
‘ habitants of the two Extremities of the Town
‘ differ in this trivial Circumſtance, yet ſince both
‘ agree in the moſt important Point, *to throw a-*
‘ *way two or three Hours every Day to no Purpoſe*,
‘ I ſhall comprehend them under one general
‘ Head.

‘ But if the Ladies will not be brought to re-
‘ trench the Number of theſe Days, I would per-
‘ ſuade them to ſpend them to ſome good Pur-
‘ poſe, that ſo many Hours may not entirely be
‘ loſt. Sir *William Temple* hath left us this Ac-
‘ count of the Viſits practiſed at *Peru*.—“ No
“ Woman went to ſee her Neighbour, but with
“ their Work in their Hands, which they followed
“ all the Time the Viſit laſted. When a Lady
“ went to ſee another of equal or ordinary Birth,
“ ſhe worked at her *own*, but when ſhe waited on
“ one of the *Palla*'s, or Women of the royal
“ Blood, ſhe employed her Time at her Work.”
‘ If this Method was practiſed among our Country-
‘ women, what glorious Proficiencies might be
‘ made in Croſs-ſtich and Embroidery; but by
‘ them, the Fan and the Snuff-box are more em-
‘ ployed than the Needle or the Thread-Papers;
‘ and the Converſation enlivened by ſmoothing
‘ their Petticoats or ſpreading their ſhort Aprons.
‘ What *Spenſer* ſays of the Behaviour of the At-
‘ tendants in the *Houſe of Pride*, may be applied
‘ to them,

‘ *Her Lords and Ladies all this while deviſe*
‘ *Themſelves to ſetten forth to Strangers Sight:*
‘ *Some frounce their curled Hair in courtly Guiſe;*

‘ *Some*

' *Some pranke their Ruffes, and others trimly*
' *dight*
' *Their gay Attire: each others greater Pride does*
' *ſpight.*

' I wonder Learning ſhould ſo ſeldom be thought
' a proper Ingredient in the Education of a Wo-
' man: For want of this, the Topics of their Diſ-
' courſe are really but low and trivial. Can it be
' believed they have not a Genius as capable of
' Improvement as ourſelves? And why ſhould the
' Compaſs of their Knowledge be confined to a
' Paſtry-Book? The beſt and moſt ancient Ma-
' nuſcript of the Septuagint was wrote by an *Egyp-*
' *tian* Lady; and is in his Majeſty's Library at St.
' *James*'s. Queen *Elizabeth* was ſo good a Scho-
' lar, that ſhe tranſlated ſome Pieces from *Greek*
' and *Latin* Authors. She twice made a *Latin*
' Speech to the Univerſity of *Oxford*; and Dr.
' *Wellwood* ſays, he has ſeen her Verſion of *Iſocra-*
' *tes*'s Oration, which was corrected by her Tutor,
' but in two Places, and one was an Error in the
' Orthography.

' After all, I am glad to hear that ſeveral of our
' young Ladies are at laſt turning their Thoughts
' to Subjects that deſerve to be the Entertainment
' of a rational Being; I mean, the Study of the
' Mathematics, which many are now learning; ſo
' that I hope it will be a common thing to find
' them demonſtrating a Propoſition of *Euclid* at a
' Tea-table, and am of Opinion the Equipage of
' it may furniſh them ſome Materials for this Pur-
' poſe. The Degrees of a *Circle* may be graduated
' round the Rim of a Saucer, or more diſtinctly
' upon the Edge of a Slop Baſon: The Coffee-Pot
' itſelf in ſome meaſure repreſents a *Cylinder*, and
' the Lid is made to riſe in *Pyramid*, or terminate

' in

'in a *Cone:* By barely raiſing a Spoon a *Perpendicular* is immediately erected; the Sugar-Tongs 'may ſerve them for a Pair of *Compaſſes*, and the 'very Board of the Table is generally formed in a 'parallelogrammic Figure.

'There can be no doubt, but that Women are as 'capable of Knowledge as Men; and as their Imagination is more quick and lively, and their Invention more fruitful, they want nothing but Application to excel them; and I hope in a little time 'to ſee ſuch Improvements made in the Sciences by 'theſe fair Students, that *to underſtand the Mathematics*, will be ſo far from a Term of Reproach, (as 'it is at preſent) that on the contrary, the Study of 'Algebra will be looked upon as neceſſary an Ac'compliſhment as Muſic or Dancing.'

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 49. *Friday, Auguſt* 26, 1726.

——*Servetur ad imum*
Qualis ab inito proceſſerit. HOR.

SIR, *London, Aug.* 12, 1726.

'SINCE your taking upon you the Inſpection of the Public, I obſerve you 'very rarely touch upon the Entertainments of the Theatres, which is a Subject worthy your Obſervation; and ought to be 'inquired into from time to time, to record 'the Progreſs, or Decay of polite Learning 'from Age to Age. This would ſtimulate our 'preſent Poets, and make them exert their Ge-

'nius's

'nius's to rival their Predeceſſors and not impoſe 'on us every Year, ſuch dull Pieces, which are 'neither fit to be read nor ſeen acted. I muſt at-'tribute their bad Succeſs in this Point to a De-'ficiency in Judgment; they undertake the great-'eſt Performances without conſidering they are 'ſcarce able to go through with the leaſt. Had 'D'urfey never attempted any thing but a Song, 'he had paſſed for a Man of Wit; but his under-'taking greater Performances quite ruined his 'Credit. I would deſire every one who intends 'to excel in his Way, to examine if he is Maſter 'of ſuch a Work as he is going about, whether '*Tragedy*, *Comedy*, or other inferior Degrees of 'Poetry; and withal to conſider, that one bad 'Piece ruins his Credit more, than two good ones 'will fetch up. The *ancient Poets*, we find, ſtu-'died their own Genius's: *Virgil* proved himſelf 'Maſter of *Heroic-Poetry*; and *Horace*, tho' cer-'tainly the greateſt Wit of that Age, yet finding 'his Genius turned another Way, never attempted '*Comedy*. To this accurate Enquiry into the na-'tural Bent of their Genius, we owe the greateſt 'Performances, both ancient and modern. *Otway* 'began to find this Art, as we may ſee by his three 'laſt Pieces, where he choſe his Subjects ſo well, 'that he had room to expreſs all thoſe ſoft Senti-'ments, which move the Heart of the moſt ob-'durate Spectator; and no one can be inſenſible of 'that Anguiſh which may happen to himſelf, as 'well as to the feigned Perſon who repreſents it on 'the Stage. How lively is the Image of a cruel 'Father in *Priuli*, and the Diſtreſs of a Depend-'ant of a Family in *Jaffier*, with the aggravating 'Circumſtances of bringing his *Belvidera*, whom 'he loved more than Life, into the ſame unhappy

'*Dilemma?*

'*Dilemma?* How movingly does he expreſs him-
'ſelf in the following Lines:

Oh Belvidera! *doubly I'm a Beggar*
Undone by Fortune, and in Debt to thee;
Want! worldly Want! that hungry, meagre Fiend
Is at my Heels, and chaſes me in View.

'But a little after, being ſooth'd by the Endear-
'ments of his *Belvidera*, he forgot his Sorrow,
'and cries out,

Reign, reign ye Monarchs that divide the World
Buſy Rebellion ne'er will let you know
Tranquility and Happineſs like mine.

'This ſhews the Maſter-piece of a Poet, to re-
'preſent Nature ſo nicely, that it can hardly be
'ſaid to be the Work of Art. How frequently
'do we ſee Men under the greateſt Afflictions tranſ-
'ported with Exceſs of Joy at the leaſt Appear-
'ance of Comfort, and in a Manner crying out as
'*Jaffier* does? 'Tis this that I would have our *Po-*
'*ets* look to, and not fill their Works with ſound-
'ing Words without conſidering the Senſe of
'them: Let them copy Nature, I'll promiſe 'em
'Succeſs. 'Tis not ſo much the Fault of the Age,
'which they are apt to complain of when their dull
'Pieces won't take; for, there are Men of as good
'Senſe and Taſte now, as any heretofore; but 'tis
'their own Miſtake, which they would gladly
'cover by ſhifting it upon the Public. I will go
'no farther at preſent, till I know whether this
'Way of Writing be agreeable to you or no; if
'it is, I ſhall at my Leiſure give you my further
'Thoughts thereon.'

I am very much obliged to this ingenious Cor-
reſpondent for his Thoughts on this Subject, and
could

could wiſh, that the Theatre was more attended to, and better furniſhed than it is at preſent: Yet I am afraid in ſo diſſolute an Age, the beſt Pieces would hardly find an Encouragement ſuitable to their Worth.

The proper Buſineſs of *Dramatic Poetry* is to repreſent Virtue in an amiable Light, and ſhew the Deformities of Vice in all its various Appearances, and repreſent the Manners and Humours of Mankind in ſuch lively Colours, that People might ſee (as it were in a Looking-Glaſs) thoſe Attitudes of Life, which might render them agreeable, and avoid thoſe Abſurdities which would expoſe them, and render them ridiculous. What Succeſs then, can be expected from ſuch Inſtructions as the Generality of People can't ſee without a ſecret Reproach to themſelves, the Licence of a univerſal Luxury having involved them in a Guilt they hate to hear of, and therefore they rather chuſe ſuch Sights and Repreſentations as give their Minds no Trouble, and coſt them no Pains in Reflection. The *Song*, the *Dance*, and the *Farce* are only regarded, whilſt the inimitable Scenes of *Shakeſpear*, are eſteemed a Burthen to the Audience, who always ſeem uneaſy till they are done; and therefore it is that thoſe Gentlemen of the *Old Theatre* have been forced to admit of thoſe monſtrous Performances, which they juſtly diſdain, and would never come into, were they not aſſured that they ſhould be obliged otherways to act to empty Walls. Beſides, there is another Misfortune attends Poetry, which is, that even many of the beſt Taſte are drawn away by expenſive Subſcriptions to other Entertainments, which makes them the leſs anxious for the Fate of an Author, or the Circumſtances of the Performers: But there is no Doubt, if this Evil is curable, the Method you propoſe ſeems to be the

most effectual. I shall be glad to hear further from you on this Subject, being willing to contribute all that lies in my Power to the Restoration of Good-Sense and rational Entertainments in a Place where I take so much Pleasure myself; and which, were there any Encouragement for a proper Regulation, would manifestly tend to the Delight and Instruction of my Countrymen.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 50. *Monday, August* 29, 1726.

Prudentis proprium munus recte consulere. ARIST.

IMPARTIALITY is without Doubt, one of the first Ingredients that should compose the Principles of a true Patriot, but it is a Virtue not universally understood. A Man may be very sincere and very much mistaken. The impartial Judgment of a Trifler, let him be never so great, is not to be the Rule of Direction in a well-ordered State. The Policy of an enterprizing Minister may bring about Destruction to his Country, by such Measures, as to some impartial Minds may seem both safe and equitable. The impartial Reasoning of an uniform'd Understanding therefore, signifies nothing. Even a wise Man must sometimes suspend his Judgment, or else he will admit of no Degrees of Wisdom: But one Thing certainly required of a true Patriot is to inform himself of the Truth, and as this is the only

Rule

Rule by which he ought to conduct his Judgment, he has no Excuſe for the Omiſſion of it. By the ſame Reaſon that a Man expects the Protection of the Community, by the ſame Reaſon he ought to contribute all that lies in his Power for the Preſervation of it; and this he can never do, if he takes Things upon Truſt. Miniſters will not always do right, and ſometimes their Actions will be condemned out of Prejudice or Animoſity. A true Patriot therefore, will trace them to the Spring-head, and diſcover whether the Motives be honeſt or otherwiſe; and as Juſtice and Certainty temper'd with Benevolence, are his eſſential Qualities, ſo he will neither palliate or conceal their evil Actions out of Fear, nor miſrepreſent them out of Malice.

Activity is another neceſſary Qualification in a true Patriot; without this, his Knowledge is a Reproach to him; the Duty he owes his Country requiring him to take pains in its Service. *Plutarch* relates of *Cato*, that he was never abſent from the Senate; and when *Pompey* and his Party found they could neither perſuade nor compel him to favour their unjuſt Demands, they contrived to engage him to plead the Cauſes, or arbitrate the Differences of his Friends, to divert him from Matters of more Importance; but he ſoon diſcovered their Contrivance, and fairly told his Friends, he would never meddle in any private Buſineſs, when the Senate was aſſembled, ſince it was not for Honour or Riches, nor raſhly, nor by Chance, that he engaged himſelf in the Affairs of State; but he undertook the Service of the Public, as the proper Buſineſs of an honeſt Man, and therefore he thought himſelf obliged to be diligent for the Good of his Country. It was the Activity of *Cato* which reformed the Abuſes of the Treaſury, and as the ſame Author ſays, made the Office of a *Quæſtor*

equal to the Dignity of a *Conſul*. The ſame indefatigable Zeal preſerved his Country for ſome Time from the rapacious Hands of ambitious and wicked Men, who had no Way of deſtroying that brave People but by purchaſing their Liberties. Glory increaſes by Oppoſition; but how exalted is that Glory that is ſupported by Truth and active Virtue? Wherein is Ambition laudable, but in doing good to Mankind? And what Security or Satisfaction can any Man have in being amongſt a Herd of Wretches who can be hired to do any thing? When a great Man by his ſuperior Virtues has juſtly gain'd the Eſteem and Love of his Countrymen, who follow his Councils becauſe they are juſt and honourable, what an Addition would it be to his Glory to unite their Services in the Defence of the Laws and Liberties of his Country? The only Way for an upright Man to expect Juſtice, is to employ all his Might in the Support of it. Virtue alone will be diſappointed; but Virtue and Power are irreſiſtible.

I have read ſome where, that it was the Pride of *Cato*, and the diſturb'd Melancholy of *Brutus*, that made them arm againſt the Uſurpation of *Cæſar*. I ſuppoſe ſome People think the Community ſo little worth any one's Concern, that they can't believe a Man, who has not ſome private Views, or ſomething unaccountable in his Temper, would run any Riſque on this Occaſion: But this is a narrow Way of thinking, and deſtroys all the Notions we have of Virtue and Honour.

For my Part, I cannot doubt (when I ſee a Perſon renounce Power and Profit, and take upon himſelf the Fatigue of oppoſing a prevailing Party, whom he thinks to act upon wrong Maxims) but that he does it out of a Principle of Integrity, on abounding Love to Mankind, and a laudable Ambition

bition of Glory. What ſhall we ſay of *Codrus* the *Athenian* King? Or *Curtius* the *Roman* Hero? who both ruſh'd voluntarily into Death for the Preſervation of their Country. Is not human Nature the ſame now as it was then? Or are the Notions of Good and Evil altered in the Progreſs of Years? Why may it not happen, that a Man contented with his Share of Property, may lay out for the Happineſs of others, and employ his Time and Cares to prevent any Inſult upon the Liberties or Properties of his Countrymen, if there ever ſhould be any Occaſion? Is it poſſible to find out a more noble Employment? Or is it poſſible to arrive at greater Honours, than to have deſerved well of all good Men? What Satisfaction of Mind can be ſo compleat as his who carries along with him, the Security of having acted uprightly? How ſerene his Looks? How undaunted his Reſolutions, who has no Enemies, but thoſe of his Country? The greateſt Title the *Romans* could think of giving to the beſt of Emperors was, that of *Optimus*, which reſpected more his perſonal Merit, than the Exaltation of his Condition, and implied indeed, that it was more glorious to be good, than great; or rather, that the beſt Man, was eſteemed the greateſt.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 50. *Friday, September* 2, 1726.

Jam ſubrepet iners ætas nec amare decebit,
Dicere nec cano blanditias capite. TIBUL.

A Female Relation of mine, hearing that I was indiſpos'd of the Gout, came the other Day to make me a Viſit; as I then had a little Interval of Eaſe, I was glad of her Company, and order'd my Servant to ſhew her up Stairs: As ſoon as ſhe had ſeated herſelf, *Couſin*, ſays ſhe, *what d'ye think?* As this is a Queſtion that never requires an Anſwer, ſhe went on, *Mrs.* Wrinkle *is married to Captain* ——; *I have juſt now received a Letter from my Niece* Quickſight *with the Account*——. *Cou'd you believe it?*—*What Fools Women are!*——*Well*, ſays I, *Couſin, is it ſo extraordinary a Thing for Women to marry with their Inclinations? Well, but wou'd any Body*, ſays ſhe haſtily, *have lived to her Years, and throw herſelf away at laſt upon a young Fellow not worth a Groat?*—*You don't conſider, ſhe's at leaſt Fifty*—— *Bleſs me! what can ſhe think?*——*Surely the Woman muſt have been bewitch'd*——. *If I had done ſuch a Thing, what wou'd People have ſaid? I, that am younger*——. *How, Couſin*, ſaid I, *I thought you had been much of an Age. I beg your Pardon, Sir*, ſhe reply'd with ſome Warmth, *ſhe was born in* February, *and I was not born till the* April *following: But what does that ſignify*——*Surely there is*

is a great deal of Difference between us.— Here ſhe bridled her Head and coloured ſo much, that I could eaſily perceive I had offended her; therefore I turned the Diſcourſe, and aſked her how *Sir* Nicholas Dewlap *did*, *who is an obſequious Admirer of her?* but however, nothing could recover her, but away ſhe went out of the Room without making me an Anſwer.

This Lady has a pretty good Fortune, and a great deal of Pride, which has made her ſtand out ſo long againſt the Attacks of Mankind, that they deſpairing of any Succeſs have left her a good while to enjoy herſelf, without any Interruption. This Neglect has made her a little peeviſh, ſo that in all Places ſhe can't help ſhewing her Reſentment to that perfidious Sex (as ſhe calls us,) and to be even with them, ſhe has ſtruck up a new Alliance with a huge *Parrot* and a *Dutch Maſtiff*: With theſe ſtrange Animals ſhe paſſes away moſt of her Time, and ſpeaks to one of them in the Language of a Wife, and uſes the other with the Tenderneſs of a fond Mother. 'Tis very ridiculous to hear her court *Mignon* (for that's the Name ſhe calls this Bird) with all the Reſpect and dutiful Complaiſance which belongs to a good Huſband. I have often heard her ſay, ſhe is ſure no Man has half the Sincerity of that Creature; and once ſhe broke out into the moſt unaccountable Extravagance of affirming, that if there was any ſuch Thing as Tranſmigration, ſhe was ſure ſhe ſhould find him out hereafter in any Shape. As for the other great Booby her Dog, ſhe fondles him in her Arms with all the Kindneſs of a Mother, and the Nonſenſe of a Nurſe. She turn'd away her Butler t'other Day, for calling him a Son of a Bitch. Sometimes the poor Thing is not well, and then it muſt have a Chicken boil'd for its Dinner. It ſeems, ſhe has

bought a Cradle, and ſpends an Hour or two every Day in rocking this Creature to ſleep. The laſt Time I was at her Houſe, ſhe told me, *Baſto* (for that's the Cur's Name) had a very ill Night, and had hardly eat a Bit that Day; but ſhe was a little out of Countenance when I told her, I was glad to ſee ſo ſudden an Alteration in his Health for the better; for it happened at that very Inſtant that *Baſto* was gnawing a Blade-bone of Mutton under her Chair, which he had juſt ſtole out of the Kitchen. Thus does ſhe lead a theatrical Sort of Life, and only acts over thoſe Parts, in which ſhe might have been a Principal, if her Pride had not got the better of her Underſtanding.

The following Letter was brought to me by a Footman in deep Mourning.

SIR,

I Have conſtantly read your Papers, and cannot ſay I ever had any Cauſe of Offence, till I ſaw that of the 5th of Auguſt. *I can't imagine how it ſhould come into your Country Noddle to make ſuch a Proviſion for Virgins, and have no Manner of Regard for us Widows, as if truly we had no Buſineſs in Life at all, after we have put on our* Weeds. *Silly Creature! as if People were the worſe for Knowledge and Experience, and rendered only fit for Juſty Widowers. For my Part, I can ſafely ſay it, I find no Alteration in myſelf ſince I was One and Twenty; and am ſure I have as good a Capacity to undertake any thing now, as ever I had. It would be a pretty Piece of Buſineſs indeed, if it ſhall be in the Power of ſuch an old Fellow as you to take all the Men from us, for a Parcel of naſty Chits: Marry I think they do us Miſchief enough already, as it is;——I wonder how the Men can like ſuch green Traſh——a Lottery for them——*

and

and no Chance for us—And pray what is there that any of theſe Milkſops *can do, that we can't do much better? No, no; indeed* Country, *the Project won't do: But however, it was unkind to mention any thing, ſo much to the Diſadvantage of thoſe unhappy Relicts, who wiſh for any Change of their deplorable Condition, and hope they ſhall not be excluded any Opportunities of being freed from the Sorrows of a ſingle Life. My Grief will not permit me to ſay more, than that if for the future you eſpouſe our Intereſts, you ſhall ſtill preſerve me your conſtant Reader, and*

Humble Servant,

RACHEL MEDLAR.

I am very ſorry I ſhould give offence to this Lady, or that ſhe ſhould imagine, I have not the utmoſt Regard for People in her Circumſtances; but if ſhe will pleaſe to reflect, that theſe Subſcriptions are to be voluntary, ſhe will be juſt as ſhe was before, in reſpect to any Batchelor, whoſe Inclinations ſhe may engage, and I hope ſhe will approve of my Advice, not to entertain any other.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 52. *Monday, September* 5, 1726.

Vivendum eſt, non modo quid quiſque loquatur, ſed etiam, quid quiſque ſentiat, atque etiam qua de cauſa quiſque ſentiat. CIC. OFF. Lib. 1

NOTHERE is nothing ſo common as to hear Men praiſe or condemn an Author without giving any Reaſon for their Approbation or Diſlike. The Fear of betraying their Ignorance makes them cautious of being particular, and they generally give their Judgment by the Lump, to ſave the Credit of their Knowledge.

When a new Work makes its Appearance in the World, the firſt Queſtion generally is, *Who wrote it?* And if it be levell'd againſt any faſhionable Opinion, or prevailing Party, however erroneous, 'tis prejudg'd before it is examined, and accounted inſignificant and trifling. Men are often aſham'd of being convinc'd, becauſe it is a Reflection on their former Judgment, and therefore they endeavour to ſuppreſs the Credit of an Author, whoſe Writings muſt be an eternal Reproach to them. They will never ſtay to weigh his Arguments, or give themſelves the Trouble to look into the Motive of his Sentiments, but conclude him in the wrong, becauſe he differs from them; tho' perhaps they have never aſk'd themſelves the Reaſon of their own Principles. Moſt of us remember when

when that pious and charitable Divine, the preſent Biſhop of *Saliſbury* writ that holy and orthodox Treatiſe called, *The Original and Inſtitution of Civil Government diſcuſs'd*, &c. in Support of the Chriſtian Religion and Government: Yet how much was he cenſur'd? And there did not want for thoſe who were impious enough to ſay at random, that thoſe very Arguments which he produced to convince Mankind of the Neceſſity of a religious Belief, were ſo many Batteries againſt Religion itſelf.

When *Cato*'s Letters ſpread themſelves amongſt the ſober and thinking Part of the World, and were writ with no other Deſign than to ſhew that 'True 'Piety conſiſts only in worſhipping the Deity, and 'doing good to Men, and that civil Governments 'were inſtituted by Men, and for the Sake of the 'People, and not for the Pride and Luſt of Go-'vernors; and that conſequently the People have 'a Right to expect from them Protection and Li-'berty, and to oppoſe Rapine and Tyranny when-'ever they are exerciſed, in Vindication of our 'preſent happy Eſtabliſhment, which can pretend 'to no other Title.' I ſay, notwithſtanding theſe Papers were publiſh'd with this noble View; and a more human Employment could never be undertaken by an honeſt Mind; yet the ſuperſtitious and ſervile Part of Mankind, (by too much the greater Number) charg'd the Author with Impiety, and a Deſign of ſubverting all Government whatſoever; and tho' I am ſenſible it may be called the higheſt Preſumption in the *Writer of theſe Papers*, to put himſelf upon the Liſt with thoſe great Advocates for the Religion and Liberties of Mankind. Truth, however, is a Principle to which every one claims an equal Right. 'Tis the natural Property of every Individual, in which he will admit no Superior,

and

and therefore as no Man can be condemn'd for his Enquiries after Truth, ſo when he has found it, he will be juſtified in the Communication of it. The Religion, Liberties and Properties of this Country are aſcertained by Laws; the Laws are the Boundaries of all Civil Power; and therefore when any Power ſtretches itſelf beyond the Laws, it breaks in upon that Truth and Certainty, which is indeed the Eſſence of a free Government, and the only Intention of it; and it is a Jeſt to ſay, (that whenever this happens) that every Man has not a Right to complain. How have the Grievances of this Nation been redreſs'd, but by the general Murmurs and Repreſentations of the People? And how can this come to paſs, if the Individuals are ſilent? 'Tis a ſtupid aſſertion to affirm, that one Man may have the liberty of ſaying what he will, and another, tho' animated by a juſter Principle, muſt hold his Tongue. As long as a Man makes Truth the Rule of his Expreſſions, he will laugh at his Enemies; and wretched Beings they muſt be, who are Enemies to Truth! 'Tis ſaid ſomewhere, *That the firſt Thing that is done in order to the Corruption of Manners, is to baniſh Truth:* And indeed there is not a more certain Proof of a univerſal Guilt, than when Men are offended, or laugh at the Name of Probity. When any one appears in the Cauſe of Honeſty, there is nothing ſo common as to hear an infamous Wretch ſay, *I ſuppoſe he wants to have his Mouth ſtopp'd with ſome Body's Place.* Whether this Charge be juſt, and his Argument well ſupported, is out of the Queſtion. Right and Wrong are now no more thought of, but the Merit and Glory of an Action conſiſts only in bringing about the Execution of it. *One would think that Mankind was reduc'd back again to the State of Nature; whilſt every one was intent only to advance his*

own

own Intereſt, and thought himſelf abſolved from all Regard to the Community.

I am very ſenſible how ineffectual the Admonitions of a private Man may be thought, to raiſe up thoſe Seeds of public Virtue, for which this Country has been ſo remarkable, whilſt thoſe of greater Authority and Abilities have hitherto fail'd in this laudable Attempt. But as no Man is bad all at once, ſo Vice and Corruption are Diſtempers that are not cur'd immediately. If it ſhould happen that theſe Papers, however meanly writ, ſhould cauſe any ſingle Perſon to reflect on the Baſeneſs of his Character, who can be thought to act againſt the Notions of his own Reaſon and the Principles of Honour, I ſhould be ſufficiently rewarded.

I muſt confeſs, when I began this Work, I hoped to be aſſiſted by ſome abler Genius's, who might have given my Readers more Pleaſure, and fuller Inſtruction; but except three Papers which I received from one Gentleman, which are ſubſcrib'd *A. N.* I have acted in a Manner alone. I remember my famous Predeceſſor *Iſaac Bickerſtaff*, very early cry'd out for Help, and not in vain: All the Wits of the Age combining to accompliſh that celebrated Performance. Indeed it was due to his Merit, nor was it any Diminution to their Glory, to ſhare it with him. I have now employ'd myſelf above ſix Months in theſe Lucubrations, and from what has happened, expect no other Aid than my own Zeal to ſerve Mankind with my utmoſt Power, to point out thoſe glaring Vices which diſgrace human Nature, and expoſe thoſe little Artifices which are covered with the Paint of Hypocriſy and Diſſimulation; to watch over the Liberties and Properties of my Countrymen, and in this Undertaking, however obſcure I may be in Life, I flatter myſelf with Succeſs, remembring to have

read

read in Hiſtory, that *Rome* itſelf was ſaved from the Inſults of the rapacious *Barbarians* by ſo inconſiderable an Accident as the Hiſſing of a *Gooſe*.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 53. *Friday*, *September* 9, 1726.

Prodiga non ſentit pereuntem fœmina cauſam. JUV.

RICHES and Power are the two Idols to which all Mankind pay their Adorations, inſomuch that thoſe who have but a little Share of them endeavour to make the World imagine they poſſeſs more than they really have, and by a pompous Outſide, would cheat People into a Belief of their Sufficiency. Thus we often ſee Gold and Silver glitter on Veſtments, where the Lining is compos'd of nothing but Cares and Indigence; and we ſhould the leſs wonder at this little Artifice, when we behold what great Reſpect is paid to outward Appearances; and how indifferently a Perſon is treated in all public Places, who wears a Habit that renders his Circumſtances ſuſpected. 'Tis ridiculous enough to conſider what Turns and Shifts People make uſe of to ſupport this Vanity, and keep up their Credit with their Friends and Acquaintance. I know a frugal young Gentleman of that happy Management, that by the Contrivance of two Pair of Sleeves to his Coat, he has made one ſuit of Cloaths do the Honours of two Birth-days. The ſame Habit has ſaluted his Majeſty, only with the Ornament of a gold

gold Button, which has paid its Reſpects afterwards to her Royal Highneſs, illuminated with a Brocade Facing to his Sleeves. I have been told of a Lady of *Weſtminſter*, who hires Horſes only three Days in the Week, by which Means, at half the Expence, ſhe has the Reputation of keeping her Coach. I am far from deſigning this as any Reflection on theſe two Perſons; on the contrary, I think them commendable Examples of Oeconomy, and ought to be imitated by all thoſe whoſe Circumſtances are not equal to their Ambition.

I muſt on the other hand take notice of Viſiting-Days, and pernicious gaming Aſſemblies kept by Tradeſmens Wives, in Imitation of People of Quality, to the Ruin of a great many induſtrious, honeſt Men, whoſe Good-nature or Want of Reſolution ſuffer them to be impos'd upon by this inconſiderate Mimickry of Greatneſs in their Conſorts, and accordingly have order'd my *Spies* to bring me the Names of all ſuch Offenders, who leave their Shops at unſeaſonable Hours, to form Parties at *Quadrille*, or other pernicious Games; and I intend to have them affixed upon the Pillars of the *Royal-Exchange*, or printed in Mr. *Caſtaing*'s weekly Paper, that the innocent Part of Mankind may not ſuffer by giving too much Credit to ſuch heedleſs Correſpondents: But becauſe I would not deny to ſuch opulent Citizens as can afford it, an Opportunity of making a handſome Expence in Proportion to their Fortunes, nor exclude thoſe uſeful Subjects from the Society of People of Faſhion, I have therefore ordered one of my Secretaries, to grant to all ſuch as appear qualified from the Largeneſs of their Income, Licences to receive and pay Viſits on ſet Days, and exhibit Tea, Coffee, Chocolate and Cards, provided ſuch Viſits ſhall not be made before the Hour of Seven in the Afternoon, and

ſhall

ſhall not exceed Ten, within the Liberties of this well-regulated City; and in all the other Parts of the Town, from the aforeſaid Hour of Seven to Eleven.

Provided alſo, that no one, under the Degree of a Knight's Wife, ſuffer herſelf to be call'd Lady or Ladyſhip by any of her poor Relations or menial Servants, over whom ſhe may very juſtly be deem'd to have Power.

And for a total Diſcouragement to all Affectation and Prodigality, it is farther ordered, that any Perſon whatſoever, who ſhall preſume to exerciſe any of the abovementioned Freedoms, without ſuch Licence, ſhall incur the Penalties aforeſaid, and ſuch other Penalties as I ſhall think due to ſo great a Contempt.

Provided alſo, that this Order ſhall not extend to ſuch Citizens who by Marriage have made Alliances into noble Families, and are by this Means irradiated with a Liberty of doing what they pleaſe; and becauſe Frugality is one of the main Hinges of a thriving Commerce, it is further ordered, that none of the aforeſaid Traders, of any Degree whatſoever, except ſuch as are excepted, do preſume to appear at *Court* or at the *Opera*, in Brocades or Silks interwoven with Silver or Gold, or embroidered upon, or adorned with Gold or Silver Laces, or any other Silks of the Looms of *France*, or wear any fine *Mecklin* Laces, or other Laces called *Flanders* Laces, on their Heads, Handkerchiefs or Ruffles, without ſuch Licence, under Penalty of having Labels affixed to the Breaſts of ſuch Perſons, upon which ſhall be written in large Characters, the Names and Occupations of ſuch Traders, that every Body may know to whom ſuch Finery may belong.

Provided

Provided alſo, that this Order ſhall not be interpreted to reſtrain the aforeſaid Traders to appear at either Play-Houſe in *Drury-Lane*, or *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, Droll, Puppet-Show, or any other public Divertiſement, which may be properly called the Growth of *England*, in what Habit they ſhall think fit.

It is likewiſe further ordered, that no Trader aforeſaid, ſhall preſume to ſet up any Coach, Berlin, Chariot, or any other *Voiture*, under any Denomination whatſoever, which is driven by more than one Horſe, without a proper Licence taken out of my Secretary's Office, under the Penalties abovementioned, unleſs ſuch Perſon or Perſons, do affix on ſuch Carriage aforeſaid, a Sign or Label, like that which hangs before their Houſes, or other Sign or Label, expreſſing and ſhewing their ſeveral Trades and Occupations; and becauſe no Perſon may pretend Ignorance or Inability to produce ſuch proper Device, as may ſignify his Profeſſion or Employment, I have ordered my *Poet* to furniſh ſuch *Hieroglyphicks* and *Motto's* at reaſonable Rates, as may ſerve upon any Occaſion whatſoever.

Provided however, that this Order do not extend to any Phyſician, Surgeon, Apothecary, Midwife, Male or Female, nor any Subalterns of the Law, nor any Officer of the Militia, nor any other Perſon, who for his Health or Diverſion, ſhall think proper to drive a *Chaiſe* with one Horſe.

Provided alſo, that nothing herein ſhall be conſtrued to extend to Mr. *Waugh*, that ingenious Inventor of the uſeful Art of driving with Dogs, who is authoriſed by theſe Preſents to increaſe his Number from Four to Six, provided he makes uſe of a Monkey for his Poſtilion.

N. B. Licences, Hieroglyphicks, and Motto's

are only to be had at Mr. *Parker*'s, Bookseller, near the *Cocao-Tree* in *Pall-Mall*; beware of Counterfeits.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 54. *Monday, September* 12, 1726.

——————————— *quid fas*
Atque nefas, tandem incipiunt sentire, peractis
Criminibus.——————— JUV.

SEVERAL Petitions and Remonstrances having been presented to one of my under Secretaries, relating to sundry Insults, Batteries, and Cruelties, committed on the Bodies of my Countrymen, I am obliged in Justice to exhibit them to the Publick, that the Parties accused may have an Opportunity of vindicating themselves from such foul Aspersions, or that at least, it may be a Warning to all others, to avoid such dangerous Assassins, who go about doing all the Mischief they can invent, because forsooth, they are not comprehended within the Letter of the Laws made and provided in such Cases.

The First is the Petition of William Butterfly, *setting forth,*

THAT on the 21*st* of *August* last, as he the said *William Butterfly* was coming out of St. *James*'s Park, with his Hands tuck'd in his Waistcoat cross his Breast, the Lady *Fanny Orchard*,

chard, with a malicious Deſign, and not having the Fear of God before her Eyes, did at the Time of Stepping into her Coach, with an Inſtrument call'd the Clock Stocking, pierce the ſaid *William Butterfly* in the left Eye, which going ſloping downwards, glanc'd on the right Ventricle of his Heart, whereby the ſaid *William Butterfly* is in imminent Danger of his Life; therefore he hopes the ſaid Lady *Fanny* ſhall be obliged to give ſuch Satisfaction as the Nature of the Caſe will admit of; and becauſe it has been already adjudged, in the like Circumſtances, *that only ſhe who wounds can cure*, therefore he thinks 'tis but reaſonable, that ſhe ſhou'd be compelled to apply *ſomething* or another to his Wounds, to haſten his Recovery.

William Butterfly.

The Second is the Petition of Lancelot Ogle, *declaring*,

THAT the ſaid *Lancelot Ogle*, living in the Pariſh of St. *George*, near *Hanover-ſquare*, having for ſeveral Months look'd with the moſt reſpectful and languiſhing Air into the Dreſſing-Room of Lady *Diana Lovely*, yet notwithſtanding his conſtant Attendance, and utmoſt Care to ſhew himſelf to the beſt Advantage, ſhe has not in all this Time returned him one kind Glance; but on the Contrary, did maliciouſly, and with an Intent to break the Heart of the ſaid *Lancelot Ogle*, on the 10th of *July* laſt, and in Sight and Contempt of the ſaid *Lancelot*, make much of, and kiſs, in the Preſence of ſeveral other Ladies, an ugly *Monkey*: And he the ſaid *Lancelot* farther declares, that from that fatal Moment, the ſaid *Monkey* encouraged by this unwarrantable Favour, has made ſe-

veral ugly Faces, and chatter'd ſomething or other, with a Deſign as it is ſuppoſed to affront the ſaid *Lancelot*, which he wou'd have reſented long ago, but that he thinks it beneath him, to regard this Creature in the Quality of a Rival; yet becauſe he cannot eſteem all this Uſage otherways than a Breach of the Peace, he hopes he may have ſuch Security for their future Behaviour, as is by Law provided in ſuch Caſes.

Lancelot Ogle.

The Third is the Remonſtrance of Jeremiah Whiſper.

SETTING forth, that the ſaid *Jeremy Whiſper* being ſome Time in *June*, in Company with Mrs. *Margaret Flippant*, Mrs. *Winifred Twitter*, and Mrs. *Dorothy Dandriff* affirm'd, that *ſhe was ſure there never was ſuch a Man, in reality, as* Bevil, *but that all Men acted with ſome Deſign*; *and as for Honour, it was only a* Maſquerade Habit, *contrived to cover ſome villainous Enterprize, and for her Part ſhe never did, nor never wou'd believe a Man as long as ſhe liv'd. Mrs.* Twitter *declared, ſhe did not value their Deſigns of a Farthing, for ſhe had laid it down as a Maxim with her, that ſhe wou'd be even with them in every Thing.* The ſaid *Jeremy* was going to ſay ſomething here in Defence of our Sex, but was interrupted by Mrs. *Flippant*, who, to the beſt of his Remembrance, ſwore directly, *that if any Man ſhould falſify his Word to her, ſhe would be the Death of him.* Now, Sir, the ſaid *Jeremy* has at ſeveral Times told the ſaid Mrs. *Margaret Flippant*, *that he thought her the moſt agreeable Creature in the Univerſe, and that he likewiſe loved her to Diſtraction.* Expreſſions indeed, which he has conſtantly uſed to all Women, but he proteſts ſeriouſly without any Deſign

at

at all, for he always took it for granted, it was a Sort of Language the Ladies lik'd moſt; therefore he hopes he ſhall not be obliged by any Thing he has ſaid already, nor ſuffer for his Inſincerity; and he promiſes to take the utmoſt Care, that his Mind and his Tongue ſhall always go together for the Future.

Jeremiah Whiſper.

The Fourth is the Petition of Jaſper Pine.

SHEWING, that he the ſaid *Jaſper Pine* being of a tall and comely Perſonage, and for ſeveral Reaſons, which he does not think proper to ſpecify, determined to marry a rich Woman, did therefore apply himſelf to the Widow *Fruz*, reputed worth 1500 *l. per Annum*, and accordingly was admitted to viſit the ſaid Widow, and hand her to her Coach from the *Church* and *Play-Houſe*; and moreover, the ſaid Widow *Fruz* did accept of the ſaid *Jaſper* two *Opera* Tickets, the firſt Night that the famous *Fauſtina* appeared upon the Stage; as likewiſe a fine Fan, which he the ſaid *Jaſper won on Purpoſe* in a Raffle to preſent to the ſaid Widow; and he is almoſt poſitive, that one Night as he was leading her to her Coach from St. *James*'s Park, ſhe, the ſaid Widow, *Fruz* did ſqueeze him by the Hand with ſo much Eagerneſs, as ſhewed the utmoſt Inclination, which encouraged the ſaid *Jaſper* the next Day to offer to ſettle all he had in the World upon her, which it ſeems the ſaid Widow *Fruz* has reſented in ſuch a Manner, that ſhe not only gave the ſaid *Jaſper* a violent Box on the Ear, but has likewiſe ordered her Servants for the Future, to keep him out of her Houſe to the great Loſs, if not utter Ruin, of the ſaid *Jaſper*; therefore he hopes for ſuch Relief as may be thought

reaſonable in ſuch a Caſe, your Petitioner being indeed fit for nothing elſe but a Huſband.

Jaſper Pine.

The Fifth is the Petition, or rather Remonſtrance of Amos Bodkin.

THAT whereas the ſaid *Amos Bodkin* living in the Pariſh of *Cripple-Gate*, by Trade a working Silver-ſmith, and being in very good Buſineſs, did on *Eaſter-Sunday* laſt, marry Mrs. *Winifred Gilliflower*, of the Pariſh of *Covent-Garden*, Spinſter, and the ſaid *Amos* propoſing to himſelf much Satisfaction in the Company and Converſation of his ſaid Wife, yet to his great Grief he finds himſelf the moſt unfortunate Man in the World, the ſaid *Winifred* hardly ever coming Home till very late at Night, and when it does happen, (which is very ſeldom) that ſhe does keep Houſe, ſhe is viſited by ſeveral fine Folks, utterly unknown to the ſaid *Amos*, and when he once propoſed to her to make one of the Company, ſhe wou'd not ſuffer it, telling him it wou'd affront People of their Quality to let ſuch a dirty Mechanick into their Society; and when he ventured to tell her he wou'd be Maſter in his own Houſe, ſhe threatened to tell the Captain of his Inſolence (as ſhe call'd it,) *and ſhe was ſure he wou'd not ſee her abuſed.* Thus, Sir, you ſee my deplorable Condition, therefore I humbly beg your Advice in this Affair, and you will oblige,

Your humble Servant,

AMOS BODKIN.

I am very much concerned to hear ſo many Complaints from my Countryman; but as I am determined never to cenſure any Perſon, till I hear what

what they have to ſay for themſelves, I ſhall refer theſe Matters to my Recorder, (who has nothing elſe to do,) and when I have heard his Report, I ſhall give ſuch Orders as may be proper for the Occaſion.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 55. *Friday, September* 16, 1726.

Pulchra loquentes iidem in pectore prava ſtruentes.

HOM.

THE great Demand there has been for two of theſe Papers that related to the Behaviour and Management of Servants, convince me, that People have nothing ſo much at Heart, as the Deſire that this general Abuſe ſhou'd be ſome way or other redreſs'd; but as this may in a little Time fall under the Notice of the Legiſlature, to whoſe Care, indeed univerſal Grievances moſt properly belong, I ſhall not preſume to give any Advice in this Affair, but leave it to thoſe, who can moſt effectually cure them; at preſent I ſhall make the Sequel of Mr. *Meldrum*'s Hiſtory the Subject of this Paper.

Notwithſtanding his Lord's Rents were never better paid, and the ſeveral great Sums which the Tenants had advanc'd; yet Mr. *Meldrum*'s Management was ſuch, that he ſoon began to want more Money: That which contributed indeed very much to it (beſides his ſquandring a great deal among his Lordſhip's Acquaintance and Neighbours to ſpeak well of him, or at leaſt to hold

their Tongues) was an ugly Law-Suit, which he had commenced between his Maſter and three other great Men, about ſome Pretenſions of his not very well underſtood, though by him affirm'd to be of the greateſt Conſequence; and becauſe he wou'd ſhew his Diligence, he thought it might be an Advantage to him to bring the Cauſe on the very next Term: Accordingly he imployed a prodigious Number of Lawyers, Attornies and Solliciters, that nothing might be wanting to carry his Point; but the Difficulty was how to raiſe Money to pay all thoſe People.

It happened ſome Time before, that a *Barber* in the Neighbourhood knowing Mr. *Meldrum*'s Neceſſity, brought him a Project for raiſing Money upon the Inn-keepers and Ale-houſes in his Lord's *Manor* (which were very numerous) for conniving at their ſending *Beer* and *Ale* out in *Church* Time. This being puniſhable by the Law, was a Reſtraint upon them, and conſequently a great Loſs, moſt of the Tenants being a profligate Sort of People, and very much addicted to Drinking. When this was firſt offered to Mr. *Meldrum*, he received it with all the Contempt imaginable; but now being put to it for Money, truly he made it his own, and valued himſelf mightily upon it. Though this cou'd produce but a ſmall Matter, yet it ſerv'd well enough to borrow Money upon; my Lord's Eſtate being ſtill Security in Caſe of any Deficiency; and the Temptation of a large Intereſt drew in a great many to lend their Money upon this poor Project. When this was done, the Lawyers went to Work, Declarations were drawn up and *Ejectments* threatened, a *Scire Facias* was iſſued out againſt one, and an *Execution* carried to another; but for all this Pomp and Activity many knowing People believe, that all

theſe

theſe great Deſigns of Mr. *Meldrum* will be defaced by a *Writ* of *Error*. At leaſt, there is no Appearance that the Law-Suit will be ended very ſoon. However this Conduct of Mr. *Meldrum* made a great Noiſe, and all his Creatures rung in every Bodies Ears, the Skill and Diligence of ſo good a Servant. In ſhort, Mr. *Meldrum* was ſo puffed up, that he came one Day to my Lord, and told him, that he hoped, as a Return for his Fidelity and good Services, he wou'd uſe his Intereſt (which indeed was a very good one) that he ſhou'd be *knighted*. My Lord paus'd a little at this, and told him, he believed it was not uſual to aſk ſuch a Thing for a menial Servant; but Mr. *Meldrum* inſiſted that it was for his Lordſhip's Honour, that ſo faithful a Servant ſhou'd have ſome particular Mark of Diſtinction; and becauſe, that though indeed lately ſuch Honours might not have been conferred, it might proceed from the Defect of Merit in other Servants, who upon that Score were not intitled to ſo great Favours; but that he hop'd his Lordſhip wou'd think differently of him, and that there were many Inſtances formerly, where ſuch Things have been done. My Lord, who is the beſt natur'd Man in the World, comply'd with Mr. *Meldrum*'s Requeſt, and in a little Time after prevailed to have him dubb'd. It is impoſſible to deſcribe Mr. *Meldrum*'s Behaviour on this Occaſion, without being ſuſpected of Fiction; but in ſhort, he was ſo bewitch'd with this new Honour, that he was not able to keep himſelf upon his Guard, but broke out into a thouſand Levities, which expos'd him, even to the Concern of his Friends. I can't help obſerving, that many of my Lord's Relations look'd very grave to ſee ſuch a Man as this preferred before them; but, however, theſe were but few in Number to thoſe he

had

had perſuaded my Lord to do handſome Things for: But the greateſt Jeſt of all is, that there is not one Man in that Manor, who does not ſee my Lord's Eſtate waſting every Day, and yet you ſhan't meet with above one in four that won't tell you, that no Man ever had a better Servant, or that gave away ſo much Money to the Poor.

The following Letter was ſent to me t'other Day relating to this Story, which may be very proper to communicate to the Publick.

SIR,

'SOME Time ago you were pleaſed to publiſh 'Mr. *Meldrum*'s Conduct, with Reſpect to 'the Time, both before and ſince he came into my 'Lord's Service; but though you have mentioned 'ſeveral Particulars, yet you have omitted one 'Thing which I muſt own has puzzled me a good 'Deal; and that is, Sir, that though every Body 'knows Mr. *Meldrum* was very Poor when he firſt 'came into my Lord's Service, and that my Lord 'allows him but fifty Pounds *per Ann.* yet in a 'few Years he is grown immenſely Rich. Some 'People indeed, wou'd account for it, by ſaying, 'he is a deviliſh ſhrew'd Fellow, and foreſtalls the 'Markets all about the Country; but he denies 'this himſelf, and ſays he never bought a Penny-'worth of Goods in his Life to ſell again. Now, 'Sir, I will appeal to you how a Man can keep a 'pretty large Family and a couple of Geldings, 'eſpecially ſo near the Town, and provide hand-'ſomely for Children into the Bargain out of fifty 'Pounds *per Ann.* Some way or other he has, 'that's certain, beſides my Lord's Wages. I 'don't care to give my Thoughts of the Matter; 'but they ſay my Lord's damnably in debt again,

'not-

'notwithstanding Money has been taken up twice 'upon the Estate since Mr. *Meldum* came to it; 'and as for the Articles of my Lord's House-keep-'ing, or other Expences relating to himself, or 'Family, I can assure you, on my own Know-'ledge, there is nothing extraordinary in them. 'Where the *Devil* then does all this Money go? 'I have indeed heard my Lord's Banker say, that 'he has paid Money by Mr. *Meldrum*'s Order to 'such Names as he was sure belonged to no *Christian* 'Creatures: What the Devil cou'd this be for? I 'wonder my Lord's Friends and Relations are 'not ashamed to countenance such an extravagant 'Fellow: He'll as surely be the Ruin of that no-'ble Family as we are alive, if not timely pre-'vented. I am, *SIR*,

Your most humble Servant,

RALPH CRUSTY.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 56. *Monday, September* 19, 1726.

——————— *Altera Major*
Spes supereſt. JUV.

OF all the Bleſſings that Nature has be-ſtowed on Mankind, there is hardly one, for which we are so much obliged to her as *Hope*. This is the dear Companion, that alleviates all our Misfortunes, and heightens even our Felicity. 'Tis she that gives Relief to the

the Indigent, aſſuages the Anguiſh of Pain, ſoftens the Pangs of Diſcontent, and comforts us even in the Agonies of Death. Without her, it wou'd be impoſſible for human Nature to ſubſiſt: The ſupernumerary Cares of this Life, being too great a Burthen for Mankind to bear, without her Support: But this Indulgence of hers, often betrays us into a great many Extravagancies, and makes us believe we always merit the Thing we wiſh for, and that we are ill-treated if we are forced to go without it. Hence it is we think the Gifts of Fortune belong to no-body but ourſelves, and that the preſent Poſſeſſors keep them unjuſtly from us. But this Paſſion ſhews itſelf no where ſo much, as in Matters of Chance, where Fortune alone is to decide the Affair, for here we dare ſpeak out, and every Man's Pretenſion being alike, no-body wonders at the ſanguine Hopes of another. The preſent Lottery furniſhes us with many Inſtances of this Sort, for there is hardly a Perſon, who is able to purchaſe one Ticket, that has not his Eye on the great Prize; and as I have heard a Woman ſay, *If I am to have it, my Luck may as well be ſeen in one Ticket as a Thouſand.* I was in Company with ſome Ladies t'other Night, who were making there ſeveral Conjectures on the Number which they thought might prove the moſt fortunate. One of 'em ſaid, *She would get the Number* 1688 *which ſhe fancied wou'd be lucky and bring about a Revolution in her Circumſtances*; another fancied the Number 1722, *for in that Year her Friend came into Play, and ſhe had been lucky ever ſince:* Another ſaid, *for her Part ſhe would get Number* 1. *if ſhe could to have her Chance ſoon over:* But there happened to be an old *French* Woman there, that had a third Part of a Ticket in one of the former Lotteries, which was intituled to the great Prize,

Prize, who said, *That she believed they had never been fair since, for she had a Ticket in every one of 'em, and never cou'd get any Thing considerable.*

A Gentleman in the Company, who had a Mind to impose upon their Credulity, told 'em, *that he had dreamt three Nights together, that the Number* 1726 *wou'd come up a Prize of* 20,000 *l. which he had purchased with a great deal of Difficulty:* This alarmed 'em every one, and a Lady that was quicker than the Rest, begged to go his Halves in that Ticket, and pulling out her Purse offered to pay the Money down immediately. He cou'd not handsomely refuse this Lady's Request, which made all the Rest of the Company look very blank, who were by this Means excluded the Benefit of this imaginary Advantage. All this while there was a young Virgin in the Corner of the Room very attentive to what was said, and finding she cou'd have no Share in this Ticket, she came to the Gentleman and told him, *that her Father had promised her one, and she hop'd that he'd be so good as to dream a Number for her.* Every Body laugh'd heartily at the Simplicity of this pretty Creature, and I took that Opportunity of stealing out of the Room.

When I came Home, I found the following Letter lying upon my Table.

SIR,

'THO' I have read over every one of your 'Papers, yet I do not find, that you any 'where give the least Hint towards the Improving 'of Money. I shou'd take much more Delight in 'your Lucubrations, if they informed me of the 'Means of growing rich as well as wise. Your 'Predecessor *Isaac Bickerstaff*, of famous Memory,

'pre-

'pretended to the Gift of Divination, and conſe-
'quently might have been a very uſeful Man to
'the Publick; but tho' I promiſed to let him go
'my Halves, if he wou'd tell me the Number of
'the great Prize in any of the Lotteries in his
'Time, yet he was ſuch a *Curmudgeon*, that I cou'd
'never have a direct Anſwer from him. Now,
'Sir, believing you know as much of thoſe Mat-
'ters as *he*, I make you the ſame Offer, and I do
'aſſure you, if I ſucceed, I ſhall not fail to tell the
'World how much I am obliged to you. This,
'Sir, wou'd get you more Reputation than all
'your fine Leſſons of Morality or Politicks, and
'to tell you the Truth, I believe wou'd do you
'more good. I have been told, that you wiſe
'Men can make the *Stars* do what you pleaſe,
'therefore I think you have too much Honour to
'ſubſcribe yourſelf; but this ſhou'd be no Reaſon
'why you ſhou'd not imploy your Talents to ſerve
'your Friends; and leſt you ſhou'd be engag'd
'already in this Affair, I ſhall not confine you to
'the *Lottery*; but if you pleaſe to let me know
'(as I'm ſure you can) when any of the *Stocks* will
'riſe, more particularly *York-Buildings* or *Welch*
'*Copper*, I promiſe you ſhall find your Account
'in it; for I ſhall never think any Thing too much
'for a Man, who will make my Fortune. There's
'another Thing, which I don't know how to men-
'tion to you, (but only one looks I know not
'how, when one is paſt twenty, and a Virgin) which
'is, Sir, when I ſhall be married? 'Tis not that
'I am at all anxious about the Matter, but only
'methinks, one wou'd know; and becauſe to be
'ſure it wou'd be but the ſame Trouble to you, I
'wou'd be inform'd how many Huſbands I am
'to have, and how many Children; likewiſe whe-
'ther the Men I am to have, are to be brown or
'fair,

'fair, ſhort or tall, fat or lean, Batchelors or Wi-
'dowers: Having in theſe Particulars made no
'Reſolution with myſelf. I have a thouſand more
'Queſtions to aſk you, particularly one, Sir, which
'really troubles me a great deal, I wiſh you cou'd
'gueſs what I mean.—I'm ſure I wou'd not have
'ſpoke of it to any Man living but yourſelf;—but
'really I have ſeen ſo much of it, that I dread the
'Conſequence, and that is whether my *Labours*
'will be eaſy or painful?—Dear me!—What have
'I ſaid? I hope you will pardon this Freedom and
'reſolve theſe few Queſtions. Your Compliance
'herein, will very much oblige,

Your very humble Servant,

REBECCA MIDRIFF.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 57. *Friday, September* 23, 1726.

Aſpice quid faciunt Commercia. JUV.

THE Deſign of this Paper, being to treat of every Thing that may be for the Advantage or Information of my Countrymen, I believe I may be forgiven this ſhort Relation of the Increaſe of Wealth here in *England*, by Means of that great Commerce which we have had with the Reſt of the World.

Our firſt Trade of any Conſequence was with the *Hanſe Towns*, to whom *Henry* the IIId. gave this Privilege in the Year 1216, that they ſhou'd not pay above one *per Cent.* throughout the Kingdom,

and

and this was in Satisfaction for the Loſs of almoſt the whole Fleet of Ships, which he had hir'd of them to carry on his Wars with *France*: This Favour they enjoy'd till Queen *Mary*'s Time, who raiſed the Cuſtoms to twenty *per Cent.* Queen *Elizabeth* continued the ſame Duty, notwithſtanding their Complaints and Threats: This put a Stop to that Commerce for ſome Time, ſo that the *Engliſh* attempted to Trade upon their own Bottoms; and upon a Declaration publiſhed by the *Queen*, that the *Oſterlins* (which was the Name by which the Merchants of the *Hanſe Towns* were call'd) ſhou'd be treated in Point of Commerce upon the ſame Foot with other Strangers, their Meaſures were ſo broken, that our Merchants ſettled themſelves at *Emden* and *Staden*, upon which the *Diet* of *Ratiſbon* came to a Reſolution to force them out of the Empire. Tho' this Menace was ridicul'd in *England*, yet thoſe Towns not being able to defend themſelves in Caſe of an Attack, the Traders thought it proper to go and ſettle at *Hamborough*. Some Time after the Queen gave out another Declaration, importing, that the *Oſterlins* ſhou'd have the Liberty of Trading in *England* upon the ſame Conditions as her own natural Subjects, provided the *Engliſh* might have the Liberty of Commerce with the *Hanſe Towns*; but this was ſo far from contenting them, that it only ſerv'd to inflame 'em; and they reſolved to cut off *Hamborough* and *Staden* not only from their Society, but to hinder their Commerce with any other Part of the *Empire*. The Execution of this Deſign was ſuſpended, however, till they ſaw what Succeſs the *Spaniſh* Fleet ſhou'd have, which then threatned the Deſtruction of this Kingdom; for, long before this Time, the *Hanſe Towns* ſollicited the King of *Spain* for Protection. The Queen finding that

theſe

theſe People would not be ſatisfy'd with that Equality ſhe offer'd them, put out another Declaration, in which ſhe prohibited them any Commerce with *Spain* and *Portugal*; the Conſequence of this was, the taking of ſixty of their Merchant Ships laden with Goods for *Spain*. This Loſs, with the Victory obtain'd by us over the *Spaniſh* Fleet, made them loſe all Hopes of Revenge; and ſince that Time *England* has enjoy'd a free Trade all over the World.

But it muſt be obſerv'd, that till *Henry* the Fifth's Time, no conſiderable Quantity of Cloth was made in *England*, but our Wool was ſold to the *Flemings*, who gave us that Commodity in Return; for tho' indeed the Statute of the 11th *Edward* the Third, *Cap.* 1. made it Felony to carry any Wooll out of the Realm, and the Statute of the 11th of the ſaid King, *Cap.* 3. prohibits any foreign Cloths to be brought into theſe Dominions on Pain of Forfeiture. Yet the Inconveniences which aroſe from thence were ſo great, that the Exportation of Wooll and the Importatiou of Cloth muſt have been wink'd at; for I don't find any Repeal of this Act till the 31ſt *Edward* the Third, *Cap.* 8. where fifty Shillings a Sack for the Cuſtom, upon the Exportation is given to the King.

Theſe *Flemings* are ſaid to be the firſt of all the northern Nations who made Cloth and Linen. About the Year 960, *Baldwin* a Count of *Flanders*, promoted the Commerce of theſe Commodities very much, by eſtabliſhing Fairs in ſeveral Towns of his Dominions, and taking no Duty on their Export; but his Succeſſors being obliged to lay great Impoſts upon theſe Manufactures to ſupport them in their Wars againſt *France*, the Workmen who were very numerous, raiſed a Rebellion in *Ghent*, which being quell'd, and they finding no Security

in that Part of the Country, Numbers of Men went to *Tirlemont* and *Louvain*, and ſeveral other Parts of *Brabant*. The Duke of *Brabant* not knowing the Value of theſe new Inhabitants, laid ſeveral great Duties upon their Manufactures, which made another Inſurrection in *Louvain* and other Places, where the Workmen having killed ſome of the Magiſtrates, flew for Protection into *Holland* and *England*. From this Time the Manufacture of Cloth was carried on by the *Engliſh* to the higheſt Perfection, who, as it were, enjoy'd the Monopoly of this Trade, till by the fatal Advice of one *Cockein*, an Alderman of *London*, it was order'd that no Cloth ſhould be exported that was not dreſs'd and dy'd in *England*. This put the *Germans* and *Hollanders* upon working Cloths themſelves, to the great Detriment of this Nation; but however, *England* made but a very indifferent Figure in Trade till Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time. It was under her Auſpices, that we ſtretch'd our Commerce to *Moſcovy*, *Turky*, *Afric*, and both the *Indies*.

When that Princeſs came to the Crown the Cuſtoms amounted but to 36000*l. per Annum*; in 1666, they were farm'd at 390,000, and now they produce about 1,600,000. This, notwithſtanding the additional Impoſts, is a prodigious Increaſe, and is owing to this Commerce alone that we have been able to expend that immenſe Treaſure, in keeping the Balance of *Europe*, and ſecuring our Trade every where. 'Tis very well known, that in about twenty-ſix Years, it has coſt this Nation above an hundred Millions, to ſecure us in the Poſſeſſion of our Religion and Liberties, an Expence impoſſible to have been ſupported but by the Acquiſitions of our Trade.

After this, I need not enlarge upon the Duty: Indeed the Neceſſity we lie under to give all the Encou-

Encouragement imaginable to our Commerce, nor I hope will there be Occaſion of any Argument to prove, that the Merchant who brings into his Country one hundred Pounds a Year, nay one Shilling, upon the Balance of his Account, does more Good to the Nation, that is, adds more Strength to it, than he who ſpends ten thouſand, or gives away a Million to be conſumed in Luxury.

Some People have a great deal of Pleaſure in ſeeing the Produce and Labours of all the Parts of the diſtant World, unloaded on our Shores; but they who carry their Reflections to proper Uſe of Trade will have much more Satisfaction to hear, that the Merchandize of the natural Growth or Manufacture of *Britain*, is demanded and ſold in thoſe remote Countries. Indeed, it is but reaſonable we ſhould truck one Commodity for another, as far as thoſe Commodities may be of real Uſe; and perhaps it may be admitted, that ſome Things may be brought in, which adminiſter to the Pleaſure and Magnificence of a Kingdom; but the utmoſt Care ſhould be taken to reſtrain an univerſal Luxury, and proper Checks and Impoſitions be laid on ſuch foreign Commodities, as may effectually prevent it.

For my Part, I look upon the Body of our Merchants as ſo many Commiſſaries, who receive Contributions from all Parts of the World, and without whoſe Aid it would be impoſſible either to ſubſiſt or maintain ourſelves in our Security.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 58. *Monday, September* 26, 1726.

Where little Villains muſt ſubmit to Fate,
And great Ones may enjoy the World in State.
GARTH's Diſp.

READING over the Seſſions-Paper not long ago, I was under the greateſt Concern to ſee the long Catalogue of thoſe unhappy Wretches, who were either condemn'd to Exile, (and are ſold like Cattle for Labour) or were in a few Days to die the moſt ignominious Death, for ſtealing away the Properties of their Fellow-Citizens, and Members of the Community. And what added to my Uneaſineſs was, that many of theſe Creatures might have no other ready Means to ſupport themſelves even *one Day*, in the ſad Journey of a miſerable Life, than what they thus got by Theft: So that we ſee ſome Inſtances of Malefactors who are adjudg'd to forfeit their Lives for ſo ſmall a Matter as five Shillings.

Thus have the Laws in many Caſes ſet ſuch ſtrong Guards upon the People's Properties, that whoever breaks in upon them, runs a riſque of meeting Death for this Preſumption; and indeed, without ſuch Terrors and Puniſhments, no Community could be preſerv'd in any Peace or Order: The Vices of human Nature being too headſtrong to be held in only by the Reins of Virtue or Religion.

But tho' there is that Care taken to ſecure Individuals againſt one another in Point of Property,

yet

yet it must be admitted, that where the whole Community suffers, either by the Misapplication, immoderate Use, or rather Abuse of the public Money, by any particular Persons, there has been often in many Governments a scandalous Lenity shewn to them, as if it was a less Crime to rob Millions, than one Man: Or as if the public Money had never been or rather was not always the Property of the Community, and only applicable to the Use it was given for. It is one of *Plato*'s Constitutions, *That if a Servant shall injure the Goods of another Person, either by an unskilful, or by an immoderate Use of them, the Person who receives the Wrong, not being himself the Cause of it, the Master shall either make him satisfaction for the Damage sustained, or shall deliver the offending Servant into his Power.* If a Steward by Mismanagement or Roguery, is the Occasion of my losing forty Shillings a Year, out of my Wages, is it not the same thing to me, as if he had robb'd me of forty Shillings a Year? There is certainly no Difference; and yet perhaps there may be no Law to hang this Steward.

Suppose a Collector (for Instance) of Taxes, conceals or consumes of the public Money, ten thousand Pounds, which is the Occasion in a very short Time, of an Officer's coming to my Door for a Shilling to help to make up his Deficiency: Am not I robb'd of this Shilling? In this Case, is there any Difference between my giving it, or its being taken away from me? Indeed it may be necessary for the Good of the Community that this second Collection be made; but still he that has occasion'd it, has rob'd me of so much, and deserves Death as much in respect to me, as if he had taken it from me on the Highway. But this Circumstance is very much aggravated, when this Steward or Col-

lector, by Artifice and Management perplexes the Accounts, he compounds this Affair, and afterwards enjoys in Triumph the Spoils of his Fellow Subjects: This I believe has happened more than once; and there is a celebrated Story in King *Charles* the Second's Time of the Earl of *R——gh*, who having wafted the public Money, had no other Stratagem to gain a *Privy-Seal* for paſſing his Accounts, but by loſing three thouſand Pounds at Ombre, to his —— and the Dutcheſs of *Portſmouth*. The Misfortune is in our own Country, that very rarely one of theſe great Criminals, tho' they have the Seals of Pardon about them, (which without Doubt is a Confirmation of their Guilt) are looked upon as Felons; on the contrary, the Generality of Mankind ſeem to pay them a new Reſpect; *as if a cunning Man to avoid Puniſhment for the moſt flagitious Crimes, was ſuperior even to Innocence itſelf.*

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 59. *Friday, September* 30, 1726.

Quicquid agunt homines noſtri farrago libelli.

SEVERAL Advertiſements having of late been publiſh'd of a very extraordinary Nature, I think it my Duty to animadvert upon them, as they immediately relate to the Health and Property of my Countrymen, over which, the very Nature of my Office requires me to have a watchful Eye.

The firſt that occurs to me is the *Daily-Journal* of the 10th of *September*, of *a certain Phyſician of known*

known Abilities, who propoſes after the Example of the late famous Dr. Brookes, *of* Leadenhall-ſtreet, *to give his Advice at Home for One Shilling, and to viſit for ſuch Fees, as the Patients Circumſtances can readily allow.*

N. B. *He attends every Morning from Nine till One, at the* Golden-Head *in* Barbican, *oppoſite to* Bridgewater-Square, *where ſuch as are either unable or unwilling to pay the uſual Fees, may, inſtead of having Recourſe to the Illiterate and Unſkilful, apply themſelves to him for proper Relief.*

I believe there never was an Example of a more modeſt Phyſician than *this*; not even the late famous Dr. *Brookes*, mentioned ſo honourably by him. He gives his Advice at Home for one Shilling, and viſits for what you pleaſe; nay, if the Patient is either unable or *unwilling* to give, rather than he ſhall go amongſt the *illiterate* and *unſkilful taking* Phyſicians, he may have Relief of him for nothing. Good Man! He has no Regard for himſelf, but waits at Home from *Nine* till *One* every Day only to do good to Mankind; and what gives a greater Luſtre to his Character is, that tho' he is a Phyſician of known Abilities, yet he chuſes to conceal his Name: He is above the idle Pomp of having his Name elevated in high Places, on *Portico's* or *Pillars*; Men of inferior Talents are put to thoſe little Shifts and Artifices: All he deſires is, that you will bring your *Shilling* to the *Golden-Head* in *Barbican*; but if you won't, he ſtill invites you to come without it, rather than meet with certain Death among the *Illiterate and Unſkilful*. There is one Thing very remarkable in this Phyſician of *known Abilities*, that his Modeſty does not permit him to ſay, he will cure you; nor in-

deed, that he has ever cured any Body, as the *Illiterate* and *Unskilful* very often pretend to have done: No, he goes no farther than to give his Advice for a *Shilling*, or for Nothing, which indeed if it be good for nothing, is a fair Bargain; and upon such Terms only, will I suffer my Countrymen to visit the *Golden-Head* in *Barbican*.

The next is in the *Evening-Post* of the thirteenth of *September*. 'This is an Account of a *prolific Elixir*, for the Cure of Barrenness in Women, or 'Imbecility in Men, by promoting the cheerful 'Curricule of the Blood and Juices, raising all the 'Fluids from their languid State to one more florid 'and sparkling, increasing the animal Spirits, re'storing a juvenile Bloom, and evidently repleni'shing the crispy Fibres of the whole Habit with a 'generous Warmth and balmy Moisture, and 'thereby invigorating to such a Degree, as not to 'be imagined. It is an admirable Remedy in all 'Weakness of Body or Decay of Constitution of 'any Kind, and even seems to keep back the Ef'fects of Old-age itself.' I have not describ'd half the Qualities of this famous *Elixir*; but I have mentioned enough to convince the World, that the Author of this great Secret, means no more than by putting so many nonsensical Phrases together, to make one Fool or another believe it is worth Five Shillings a Bottle.

The next is an Advertisement of Mr. *Charles Buggs*, of *Coventry*, having found out 'a most sure 'and safe Method of curing the Gout, Rheuma'tism and Dropsy; the former by an outward 'Application, which brings forth the acid Matter 'which is the Cause thereof, by Sweat and Perspi'ration, and draws it away from all Parts of the 'Body to that where a Plaster is apply'd, which 'gently draws out under it, and discharges all the

'gouty

'gouty Humours, *&c.* whereby a Cure is effected; 'whereas others, who pretend to cure it only drive 'it from the Hands and Feet to the Head and Sto- 'mach, which is the Reaſon why ſo many are in- 'credulous, and fearful to try where a certain Cure 'may be had with the greateſt Safety. Beſide ſe- 'veral Hundred that have been cured by him in '*Coventry*, ſeveral likewiſe have been cur'd in '*London* very lately, among many others *Thomas* '*Preſton* of *Haſlewood*, who by a Complication of 'Gout and Rheumatiſm had loſt the Uſe of his 'Limbs for two Years and a Half, and was brought 'in a Cart to the Doctor's Houſe, is now perfectly 'cured. This Cure is allowed by all that know it, 'to be the greateſt that has been done theſe hundred 'Years; if any, who are afflicted with either of 'the aforeſaid Diſeaſes, are deſirous of a Confirma- 'tion, let them write a Letter to any Body in *Co-* '*ventry*, it being ſo well known there, they cannot 'fail of having full Satisfaction therein.'

If you will take Dr. *Bugg*'s Word, he is certainly a very extraordinary Man, as his Advertiſement will ſhew at length; but tho' his Remedy for the Gout is infallible, yet he ſeems to complain, that People are rendered fearful and incredulous from the Practice of all other Phyſicians, who drive it from the Hands and Feet to the Head and Stomach: This is a heavy Charge upon the reſt of that Fraternity, and I hope not true, tho' Dr. *Buggs* ſays it. I ſhall allow however the Cure of *Thomas Preſton*, who was brought to him in a Cart, to be wonderful; but I can't comprehend why any Body ſhould be oblig'd to ſend to *Coventry* to know the Truth of this Matter; as likewiſe about Mr. *Dewel*, Mr. *Dilley*, the Gentleman of the South-Sea Houſe, Mr. *Longſtone* and Mr. *Clark* the Carrier, who moſt of them live in *London*, and

have

have been cured by the Doctor in the ſame Place; unleſs it be, that they are a Parcel of ungrateful Fellows, and won't own it: Beſides, it may happen that a ſick Perſon, may not know a Soul in *Coventry*; ſo that I muſt adviſe my Countrymen in any of the aforeſaid Diſtempers, rather to conſult with Dr. *M——d* or Dr. *F——d*, or ſome other eminent Phyſician, whoſe Character is univerſally known, than to take this round-about Way of doing Buſineſs with Dr. *Buggs*.

The laſt I ſhall take notice of, is an Advertiſement of 'a Propoſal for advancing the Value and 'Intereſt of the Blanks in the preſent Government 'Lottery, from 3 to 4 *per Cent. per Ann.* thereby 'to encourage Perſons to adventure therein, *&c.*' Upon the firſt View of this Propoſal, an innocent, unknowing Perſon would believe, that if his Ticket ſhould come up Blank, he ſhould have ſix Shillings a Year for it, as Intereſt-Money; and that this good-natur'd Advertiſer would for half a Crown, add two Shillings a Year more to it. Now without looking into his Propoſal, I will venture to tell my Countrymen, that if they come into this Project, they will certainly loſe their Half-Crown, without any Redemption, and their blank Ticket by no Contrivance under Heaven, can produce more than Four and Six-pence a Year, unleſs they run a Hazard of loſing even *that* or ſome Part of it.

I have not Room in this Paper to ſay more of this Affair, but perhaps, may treat of it more at large in another, and ſhall be glad to think that I may by this Means contribute to undeceive my *Countrymen* in any Thing that relates to their Properties.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 60. *Monday, October* 3, 1726.

Sic aliud ex alio per te tute ipſe videre
Talibus in rebus poteris, cæcaſque latebras
Inſinuare omnes, et verum protrahere inde.

LUCRET. Lib. 1.

TRUTH is of two Sorts; either the Conformity of our Ideas, to Objects, or the Conformity of our Words to our Ideas. In the firſt Senſe, it comprehends all Sorts of Knowledge, whether natural or divine; I ſhall confine myſelf to the firſt Sort as far as it relates to Philoſophy, and endeavour to trace its Progreſs from the firſt Appearance of it among Mankind.

The Philoſophers were the People, who began the Chaſe after this coy Miſtreſs. The *Chaldeans* pretend to have kept an Account of 470,000 Years before the Expedition of *Alexander* the *Great* into *Perſia*, ſince their firſt Enquiries after Truth: But however fabulous this Account may be, 'tis more than probable from all hiſtorical Obſervations, that the *Chaldeans* were the firſt of all Nations who made any Progreſs in the Purſuit of *Truth*; but as they looked no farther than the *Sun*, they were too ſhort-ſighted to make any thing of it, and left room for the *Egyptians* to go greater Lengths; but theſe People, when they got the leaſt View of her, ſtaid to make ſo many *Hieroglyphics* and ſtrange Figures, that ſhe eaſily eſcaped them; but at laſt, after a very obſtinate Reſiſtance ſhe was taken Priſoner by the

the *Greeks*. *Zeno* was amongſt the firſt that laid hold on her; but after a ſtrict Examination into her Principles, and her Manner of ſubſiſting herſelf, finding he could make nothing of it, he let her go again. *Epicurus*, then ſeiz'd her, and ſeem'd to take a great deal of Pleaſure in her Company; but as he was the moſt negligent Man living, and left all Things to *Chance*, ſhe ſoon went away from him. Then ſhe fell into the Hands of *Ariſtotle*; this grave Philoſopher had taken a great deal of Pains to get Sight of her, which when he had obtain'd, he was ſo enamour'd, and paid her ſo great Honours, that he built her a magnificent Palace, adorn'd with all the Variety that the moſt ſubtle Imagination could invent. The Apartments were very ſpacious, but all the Avenues ſo winding and intricate, that the Acceſs to her was extremely difficult, even to thoſe of her own Family: But ſhe hearing that the old Gentleman had a Deſign of tearing her to Pieces to make up four *Elements*, ſhe thought it high time to make her Eſcape. After this, ſhe lurk'd up and down in *Greece* till ſhe found an Opportunity of going to *Rome*, and here ſhe ſpent her Time very agreeably in the Company of *Cicero*, *Seneca*, and *Lucretius*, who courted her in the handſomeſt Manner imaginable: But ſoon after, the *Roman* Empire became the Scene of War, and was harraſs'd by the ſeveral Invaſions of barbarous Nations. Not daring to venture in public, ſhe ſhut herſelf up in an old Library for ſeveral hundred Years, till about the ſixteen hundredth Century. When Learning began to peep abroad again, ſhe was as much ſought after as ever. She had not been long at Liberty, before a *French* Philoſopher laid hold on her, whoſe Name was *Des Cartes*, and he threw it into a Place filled with all Sorts of Rubbiſh, in ſuch a Manner, that it was impoſſible

impoſſible for her to ſtir Hand or Foot; and even when this Matter was complain'd of, and he was order'd to remove ſome of the Lumber; tho' he comply'd with the Command, yet he brought in juſt as much more, ſo that in all Probability ſhe had been ſtifled if ſeveral able Men had not come in and reſcu'd her from this unnatural Confinement. Having got her Freedom again, ſhe was hunted almoſt to Death by a certain *Chemiſt*, who purſued her thro' all the Elements, and had like to have catch'd her once or twice, had ſhe not eſcap'd by the greateſt Accident in the World. An ingenious *Artiſan* obſerving her ſo much ſought after, and ſo very difficult, thought it might be an uſeful Invention to make ſomething like her, which might be as it were her Deputy, and ſerve in her Abſence; accordingly, he produc'd a *Looking-glaſs*, which ſo alarm'd this old Lady, that ſhe has appear'd in very few Places ever ſince; and ſome People have not ſcrupled to ſay, that if the *Warden* of the *Mint* had not taken her into his Houſe, ſhe would have had ſome Difficulty of being entertain'd any where elſe.

My Antiquity-Profeſſor has at laſt oblig'd me with the following Letter;

SIR,

'AFTER ſome Pains to collect ſuch Rari-
'ties in moſt Part of Learning, as I judg'd
'uſeful and entertaining, it has been my good For-
'tune to find many valuable Manuſcripts, moſt of
'which, if not all, may poſſibly ſome time or
'other appear in Print. At preſent I ſend you one,
'that I think, for the Good of the Commonwealth
'ought immediately to be publiſh'd. It was wrote
'by *Drances*, Privy-Counſellor to old King *La-*

'*tinus*,

'*tinus*, and contains the following curious De-
'ſcription of *Laurentum*. The Town, ſays he, is
'made more for laſting, than for Beauty. It is com-
'pos'd of thick, clumſy Buildings, extreamly
'heavy and offenſive to the Eye. The Houſes in
'it are high, but the upper Stories are either quite
'empty, or fill'd with Lumber and ſuch Trum-
'pery, as is not of any Uſe either to the Poſſeſſors,
'or any other of the Inhabitants. There is like-
'wiſe a Caſtle, which, tho' new, is altogether im-
'proper to anſwer the Purpoſe for which it was e-
'rected; and as the other Buildings in the Town
'are generally dull and thick, this new Caſtle is
'dull and ſlight, and already in ſo tottering a Con-
'dition, that the other Day (adds *Drances*) upon a
'little Dirt-Wall being ſet up againſt it, it was
'like to fall. He proceeds, and ſays, there is a
'ſubſtantial Wall which encompaſſes the Town,
'made entirely of Braſs; this alſo King *Latinus*
'himſelf built, and he has beſtow'd ſuch immenſe
'Sums upon it that he has drawn the Animoſity
'of the Citizens upon him for it; who have been all
'of them heavily tax'd, and many quite ruin'd to
'adorn this Wall. This unfortunate Proceeding
'(writes *Drances* has, I doubt, already made the
'beſt-affected Subjects to his Majeſty, begin to a-
'bate of their Zeal for his Service, and his wiſeſt
'Counſellors think, that many of his warmeſt
'Friends will go over to the *Trojans* if he does not
'ſoon order this ſumptuous Brazen Wall to be de-
'moliſh'd, and the coſtly Materials ſold for the
'Good of the Public.

I am, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

J. B.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 61. *Friday, October* 7, 1726.

Ruſticus expectat dum defluat amnis, at ille
Labitur, et labetur in omne volubilis ævum.
HOR. Ep.

INfinite Duration is twofold, as it is deſcribed by the Philoſophers, either That which had a Beginning and is to have no End, or that which never had a Beginning, and is without End. In the firſt Senſe, the Soul of Man is call'd infinite, being created at a certain Time; the latter relates to the Eternity of God, who exiſting from himſelf, could never owe his Origin to any other Power, and therefore there could be no Time when he was not. When the Mind looks either Way, it loſes itſelf in the dreadful Contemplation. Myriads of Ages multiplied by Myriads make no Progreſs in finiſhing of that endleſs Account. *Milton* has drawn a moſt beautiful Picture of Immenſity, which may ſerve alſo to give us a faint Idea of Eternity.

Before their Eyes in ſudden View appear
The Secrets of the hoary Deep; a dark
Illimitable Ocean without Bound
Without Dimenſion, where Length, Breadth and Height,
And Time and Place are loſt.

The

The *Platoniſts* and *Schoolmen* make a Difference in the Manner of the Duration of Creatures and the Creator: To the firſt they aſcribe a Succeſſion of the Parts of Time; to the latter, none; by which Means they would exclude us the Poſſibility of having any Idea of the Eternity of God; but I defy any Man living to form to himſelf any other Notion of Eternity, but by a continual Addition of Time to Time: For let us examine the Conſequence of that Argument, which would maintain, that Eternity is an Inſtant indiviſible. God was either before his Creatures, or they have exiſted with him from Eternity: If God was before his Creatures, then there was a Time when he exiſted alone, and preceded the Exiſtence of his Creatures: If they have exiſted with him from Eternity, they never had a Beginning, and conſequently we cannot conceive that they were created, Creation always ſuppoſing a Time before the Thing created. The Cauſe muſt always be before the Effect; there muſt be a Priority, where there is a Dependance; and the very Meaning of Priority includes in it a Time when the Dependant was not: So that we muſt either be forced to own that there is a Succeſſion of Time in Eternity, or that the Univerſe was from Eternity independant of any other Cauſe. 'Tis true, let us go what Lengths we will, our Ideas muſt be imperfect; but as Time muſt be a Part of Eternity, ſo it is impoſſible to conceive it without a Succeſſion of Parts: Nor can I in the leaſt admit, that this Aſſertion does any Way derogate from that Perfection, which we muſt ſuppoſe belongs to an Almighty Being. In Creatures indeed, Succeſſion is always attended with ſome Imperfection; they acquire one Thing and loſe another, as they advance in Years, till they fall into an univerſal Decay; but God can ſuffer no Change,

Change, he is ever the ſame, perfect, happy, immutable: The additional Number of Days, Years, or Ages cannot make him more infinite than he was before, or in the leaſt augment his Knowledge.

The Works of the Creation as they are deſcrib'd in the firſt Book of *Moſes*, almoſt confirm this Argument for the Idea of the ſucceſſive Duration of his Eternity. He took ſix Days to finiſh this great Fabrick: The ſame omnipotent Spirit could in an Inſtant, with the ſame Eaſe, have called innumerable Worlds from nothing, have covered them with Trees and Plants, and produc'd Swarms of living Creatures; but even in this ſtupendious Work, he chuſes this gradual Progreſs (as it were) to give us an Inſight into the Manner of this Power and his Exiſtence.

From this ſucceſſive Duration alone it is that we can have any Idea of the Eternity of God, or the Infinity of his Creatures, for that blending together *paſt*, *preſent* and *to come*, that *punctum ſtans*, or eternal *Now*, are Terms ſo nonſenſical, that it is impoſſible the Mind can give an Aſſent to them. *Boetius* deſcribes the Duration of God in this Manner: *Interminabilis vitæ tota ſimul et perfecta poſſeſſio*, which is not given to human Reaſon to comprehend.

As ſure as there is a God, than which there is no Truth ſo demonſtrable, he muſt be eternal. This Attribute is as neceſſary to him as his Exiſtence, and comprehended in it, and ſince he requires this Belief from us, it is impoſſible he ſhould require it without diſcloſing it to thoſe Faculties on which our Belief depends. St. *Paul* himſelf ſays, *that Faith is the Evidence of Things not ſeen.* There can be no Evidence where the Underſtanding is unconcerned; it muſt at leaſt be convinc'd of the Exiſtence of the Thing, tho' it is not ſo neceſſary

it ſhould be ſatisfied how the thing is brought about, and it is moſt certain, that we can have no Evidence of the Exiſtence of a Thing, of which we can have no Idea.

But even upon the Terms of our own weak Knowledge, what an amazing Thought it is to look into the immeaſurable Abyſs of Eternity, where after travelling Millions of Ages, we find ourſelves ſtill on the Road, and no Hopes of ever coming to our Journey's End: The Mind is tir'd in the vain Purſuit, and loſes herſelf in the Immenſity of Space.

This is that Knowledge which God has only given us a Glimpſe of here, and perhaps reſerv'd to unfold to us in another Life, when the Mind is diveſted of this corporeal Incumbrance, and call'd into his immediate Preſence.

It may be Part of the Beatitude of *the Souls of juſt Men made perfect*, to behold the great Creator of all Things, in his own Eſſence; to ſee the Spring that gives motion to this wonderful Machine, and all the depending Threads that hold up the Exiſtence of thoſe innumerable Beings, who ſubſiſt by his Power; to comprehend the Nature of *Spirit*, and which Way it operates on *Matter*, and how *material* Notices are communicated to the Mind, to look back into the wide Space of Eternity; and to know how the Divinity was employ'd before this World had a Beginning, and to look down again into the Gulph of Infinity, and view all the various Scenes of Futurity.

This may be the Condition of the Bleſſed, and much more, for whom ſuch Things are reſerv'd, *as neither Eye hath ſeen, nor Ear heard, nor hath it enter'd into the Heart of Man to conceive.*

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 62. *Monday, October* 10, 1726.

——————— *Furit altere amore*
Et pontum tranare poteſt, et vertere Trojam.
Alterius ſors eſt ſcribendis legibus apta:
Ecce patrem nati perimunt, natoſque parentes,
Mutuaque, armati cocunt in vulnera Fratres:
Non noſtrum hoc bellum eſt coquuntur tanta movere,
Inque ſuas ferri pœnas, lacerandaque membra,
Hoc quoque fatale eſt, ſic ipſum expendere fatam.

THE *Stoicks* were of an Opinion that there was one unchangeable Courſe of Things, that Men were only Machines directed by ſome ſuperior Power, having no Choice or Freedom of their own. I ſhall not enter into the Conſideration of this Doctrine, which has been ſo long exploded, but only obſerve, that this muſt have been the Notion, both of the Ancients and Moderns, who gave any Credit to *Oracles*, *Aſtrology*, or any other Sort of Divination: For, the Suppoſition of the Power to foretell Events, includes in it a Neceſſity for thoſe Events to be produced, or elſe the pretended Knowledge is all a Trick and Impoſture.

This Frenzy of believing it is in the Power of Mortals to give a Hiſtory of our future Life, ſtill poſſeſſes the Minds of many People, and there are abundance of idle Fellows and old Women in this Town, who live handſomely out of the Follies of their Neighbours, who bring in their Contributions very chearfully to thoſe *Conjurers* (as they call

'em) to imform them about the moſt important Events of their Lives.

I muſt adviſe my Countrymen to beware of theſe *Cheats* and *Impoſtors*, who know nothing of the *Stars*, and therefore are as ignorant of Futurity as themſelves, and that even when Aſtrology was in the greateſt Credit, it has been often detected of Fallacy.

'Father *Bernier* tells a pleaſant Story of a Gar-'dener of *Abas* King of *Perſia*, who rooting up 'ſome Trees, which the King by Direction of his '*Aſtrologer* had cauſed to be planted in a *fortu-'nate Hour*; and being thereupon rebuk'd, he 'turn'd to the Aſtrologer, and ſaid, *Sure Sir, you 'was out in your Calculation, for theſe Trees cou'd 'never have the Benefit of lucky Stars, which were 'ſet at Noon, and unfortunately pulled up at Night.*

'Aſtrology is really nothing, generally ſpeak-'ing, but a ſpecious Way of Cheating ignorant 'People of their Money, undertaken by ſome con-'fident Knaves, who, in their Talk of future Oc-'currences, are not ſo much ſupported by their 'own Arts, as by the Credulity of their Hearers, 'if Things fall out as they boldly gueſs'd, they 'preſently riſe in Honour and Credit with the 'Multitude; if Matters go otherways, their Pre-'dictions are eaſily forgot, and ſo their Miſtakes 'make no Noiſe. Among the many ill Conſe-'quences that follow from this ſilly Superſtition; 'there is one which I think intollerable, that is, 'while Men are ſtaring and gaping, and expecting 'great Things from theſe *Aſtrologers*, they neither 'will find Leiſure or Inclination to diſcover the 'Cheat, but ſuffer themſelves to be led by the 'Noſe by the vileſt Rogues on Earth.'

But though I appear thus to decry *Aſtrology* in general, yet I wou'd not be underſtood, as if I thought

thought there was nothing at all to be collected from the *Stars*; on the Contrary, I have obſerv'd in ſome *Almanacks*, very ſtrange Events foretold, which I am confident, have ſurpriſed even the *Compoſers* themſelves, and I am obliged in Juſtice to a very ingenious Man, and a particular Friend of mine to recommend an *Almanack* for the enſuing Year, where the Conjectures are made upon ſuch ſure Principles of Art and Knowledge, as cannot fail of coming to paſs, but the following Advertiſement will better explain it to you.

On the 1ſt of *January* next will be publiſhed a new *Almanack* for the Year 1727, intitul'd, *Rich Robin*'s *Almanack*; wherein, beſides the uſual Predictions relating to the Weather, Eclipſes, *&c.* many other ſingular and curious Matters are contain'd, and each as neither Poor *Robin*'s, nor any other, Almanack can pretend to. By this you will be conſtantly inform'd of all the Changes which are to happen at C—rt, with the true *Cauſes* of them. Rich *Robin* alſo foretells the Riſe or Fall of Stocks for every Month in the Year, and gives an exact Liſt of all ſuch who have P——ns, or any other Money from the S——t Ser——ce with the *Quantum* thereof; he alſo tells you when the P—t will meet, when riſe, and what Money will be *given* or *taken*, with the true Price of every Thing ſold in the Court of Requeſts, *Solomon*'s *Porch*, the *painted Chamber*, or Places adjacent.

Herein may be alſo found many remarkable Obſervations relating to the preſent Situation of Affairs in *Europe*, by which Means any Perſon the leaſt ſkilful in Politicks may diſcover, whether the preſent *Peace* we enjoy, is likely to be converted into a *War*, or the preſent State of *Warfare* we are in is to be turned into a *laſting Peace*. Here may be alſo ſeen what Fleets will be fitted out next Year,

where they will be ſent, and what Services they will perform, with many other curious Things, too long to be inſerted in an Advertiſement. This *Almanack* will be ſold by moſt of the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*; and notwithſtanding it contains ſo many extraordinary Things, the Price will be but the ſame with other *Almanacks*.

N. B. If any Perſon wants to be inform'd of any of the aforeſaid Particulars before the Publication of this *Almanack*, he may repair to the Author's Houſe near *Pimlico*, where he may be ſatisfied in any Queſtion he is pleaſed to aſk, twice a Week, *Gratis*.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 53. *Friday, October* 14, 1726.

——— *Servare modum, finemque tueri,*
Naturamque ſequi; patriæque impendere vitam.
Nec ſibi ſed toti genitum ſe credere mundo. LUCAN.

IF we look back into the original and natural State of Man, we muſt either behold him only attended with another Perſon, which was deſign'd to propagate their Species down to Poſterity, or we muſt believe, that at the Inſtant of Creation, the Earth ſwarm'd with living Creatures, and every Province was peopled in Proportion as it cou'd afford Suſtenance to its new Inhabitants. When we conſider him either Way, our Imagination paints him a naked, deſolate Being, unable to communicate his Sentiments by any articulate Sounds, a Stranger to all Thought, and Reflection, fearful of every Thing

Thing about him, and even ſtartled at himſelf, urged by Hunger to ſnatch any Thing, that was near him: Thirſt wou'd drive him to the Flood, and Heat or Cold wou'd make him ſeek Shelter among the Dens or Woods. If we were allowed to conſider the firſt Inhabitants of the Earth in this brutal Situation, it wou'd be eaſy then to account for the Origin of civil Government; for when Men had, by Degrees, got a Language by which they cou'd communicate their Ideas and Sentiments to one another, and when Experience had taught them how neceſſary their mutual Aid was to contribute to their Support, how reaſonable it was, that Property ſhould be diſtinguiſhed, that every Man ſhould enjoy the Fruits of his own Labour, and how juſt it was that the whole Community ſhould unite, and become the Guaranty of each others Lives and Rights.

From hence we might ſafely, and without Contradiction conclude with a celebrated *Writer heretofore*, that *all* publick Regiment *of what Kind ſoever, ſeemeth evidently, to have riſen from deliberate* Advice, Conſultation and Compoſition *between Men judging it convenient and behoveful; there being no Impoſſibility in* Nature, *conſidered by itſelf, but that Man might have liv'd without any publick* Regiment, as is deſcrib'd by the *Poet* in the following Lines.

When the firſt Fathers of our human Brood,
Dirty and dumb crawl'd from the teeming Mud,
A War began with Nails and Fiſts and Heads,
For Acorn Banquets and for leafy Beds.
Cudgels came next in Play; and riper Hate
Arm'd with ſurer Inſtruments of Fate,
At length their Voice improv'd t' explain their Thought,
Joyful to Name the Things for which they fought.

Now Rage began to cool, and force to ceaſe
And general Parlies work'd a general Peace
Towns roſe and Laws were ſettled to remove
Invading Theyts, and check licentious Love.

From this Compoſition and Agreement among Men, ariſes that mutual Obligation of aſſiſting and ſupporting one another againſt the Incroachments of ſuch, who exceed the Boundaries of Powers allowed them for the Conduct of the Affairs of the Community, and it is true, that if in this Caſe any Member of the Community be injured by another, the whole is obliged to take care that the injur'd Party have Satisfaction. As any particular Perſon expects the Protection of another he muſt likewiſe in his Turn, do all he can to protect him, nor can he ever have an Excuſe for this Omiſſion, but by a Breach of the fundamental Principles of Society, which muſt be always ſuppoſed to be for the equal Benefit of the whole Community. 'Tis not in this Caſe enough for a Man to ſay, that he will give up his own Right, and ſubmit to the Will of an Invader, and therefore he is abſolved from giving his Aſſiſtance to another, for the Laws of Society are prior to this Conſideration; nor can it with any Reaſon be ſuppoſed, that ſuch a Perſon wou'd ever have been admitted into, or ever have had the Benefit of Protection from any Community on any other Terms, but an Expectation of his doing every Thing for their Good.

A Man therefore is not at Liberty to withdraw his Allegiance at any Time (without the higheſt Injuſtice) from a Community where he has had, and continues to have, their Protection. His Zeal and Endeavours, to ſupport the Laws of that Society, is a Debt he always owes, and wou'd every Man pay this Debt, we ſhould never have Cauſe to com-

complain of the Rapine and Violence of any ſingle Perſon.

Out of Society (ſays *Hobbes*) *we are defended only by our ſingle Strength; in Society by the Strength of all: Out of Society no Man is ſure to keep Poſſeſſion of what his Induſtry has gained; in Society every Body is ſecure from that Danger. To conclude, out of Society we have the Tyranny of Paſſion, War, Fear, Poverty, Filthineſs, Barbarity, Ignorance and Wildneſs; in Society we have the Sway of Reaſon, Peace, Security, Riches, Decency of Ornament, Company, Elegancy, Knowledge, and Benevolence.* But yet it is very eaſy to be defeated of all theſe Benefits, if we ſuffer the Powers delegated to put the Laws of the Society in Execution, to turn upon the Society itſelf, and obtain that arbitrarily, which was at firſt only granted by common Conſent, or if the Repreſentatives of the Society ſhall at any Time, by Fear or Corruption in the *major Part*, make ſuch Laws as are deſtructive and inconſiſtent with the original Compact. *France* is an Inſtance of the firſt Sort, there Parliaments being no more at preſent than the King's *Clerks*, to engroſs what his Majeſty is pleaſed to order and publiſh. As to the other Method of inſlaving the People by Corruption, I don't think it impoſſible to be done, becauſe it has been executed with Succeſs heretofore. *Cæſar* and *Pompey* owed all their Greatneſs and Power in *Rome*, to the Largeneſs of their Gifts, and triumph'd over the Liberties and Properties of their Countrymen by the Force of Bribes and Penſions. Had every *Frenchman* and *Roman*, beſides thoſe that were corrupted, aſſerted his natural Right, and paid the Debt he owed to his *Countrymen*, Members of the ſame Community, what wou'd have avail'd all the Attempts of thoſe rapacious Tyrants, or illuſtrious *Banditti?* who, by this infamous

famous Conduct, sacrificed the Lives of Millions of their Companions, and destroy'd the Properties of Millions more, who all had an equal Right of being protected, and an equal Share in the Legislature. When we consider by what a small Number, all these Innovations and Insults are brought about, one wou'd be amaz'd to think how it ever cou'd be! There cannot be the least Doubt but the Number of the injur'd, in all these great Events in Proportion to the Number of the *Invaders* or rather *Robbers*, is at least a Hundred to One. How easily then, might it be prevented were every Man, as he ought to be, watchful over the Laws and Liberties of the Society he lives in, and would venture, what by the very Nature of Society he ought to venture, to keep his Associates within just Bounds, and suffer no Man, nor Numbers of Men, to offend against the eternal Rule of mutual Preservation?

The Enthusiasm of *Felton* might discourage the licentious Attempts of any enterprizing Man, to venture the Exercise of lawless Power: But the Example of *Regulus* is a laudable Instance of that Duty every honest Man owes to his Country, and should teach him to prefer a glorious Death, to an ignominious Life.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 64. *Monday, October* 17, 1726.

Hæ jovis ad ſolium, ſevique in limine regis,
Apparent, accuuntque metum mortalibus ægris:
Si quando cœlum horrificum morboſque deûm rex
Molitur, meritas aut bello territat urbes
Harum unam celerem demittit ab æthere ſummo
Jupiter.—— VIRG.

To the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

SIR,

'THIS is occaſion'd by the great Importunity of two Nieces of mine, who, upon the 8th Inſtant were called out of the Parlour from Cards, to come and 'ſee the ſtrange Things in the Sky: I fearing leaſt 'it might be ſome Trick to trapan my Girls, followed with as much Haſte as my gouty Legs 'would allow me. But when I came into my 'Garden, I ſaw, that the celeſtial Figures, which 'had put my little Family into ſuch an Uproar, 'were only the *Aurora Borealis*; which the Sailors 'are too well acquainted with to be ſurprized at. 'As I am reckoned a very wiſe Man among my 'own Domeſtics, I was going to explain to them 'what this *Aurora Borealis* was; but my Cook-'Maid interrupted me, by crying out, that this '*Star* (for indeed it was in that Shape) was the 'Fore-runner of ſome very extraordinary Accident. 'That ſhe remember'd ſuch a Thing had been ſeen

'in

'in the *October* before the *Revolution*, and ſhe had 'heard my Honour's Father ſpeak of ſtrange Ap- 'pearances in the *Sky* before the happy *Reſtoration:* 'And ſhe hop'd—ſhe was going on at this ſtrange 'Rate, when I reproved her, ſaid I, *Peg*, o' my 'Word, if you talk thus, I'll have you taken up 'for a *Papiſt*. I had no ſooner ſtop'd her Mouth, 'but my Nieces fell a Chattering, *Look there Un- 'cle*, cried they, *don't you ſee Blood, and a Man 'frowning with a Crown upon his Head, and a 'Thing in the Shape of a white Horſe? I Warrant* 'Rich Robin, *the Almanack-maker, can tell what 'all this Means. Pray Uncle go to him and aſk 'him.* In ſhort, theſe young Gypſies led me ſuch 'a Life all that Night and the next Day, that I 'was forc'd to go to my Friend *Robin* laſt *Mon- 'day* to be inform'd, whether he really thought 'there was ſomething more than common in this 'or not. I was almoſt aſhamed to aſk ſuch a 'Queſtion, and therefore endeavoured to excuſe it, 'by ſaying, my Family, and the whole Pariſh, 'were ſo much frightened at what they ſaw laſt '*Saturday* in the Sky, that nothing wou'd ſerve 'them but my going to him, to have his Opi- 'nion upon the Matter. But I was ſurprized to 'find honeſt *Bob*, (for ſo I call him let others think 'what they will) look upon his *Aurora Borealis* 'as an ill Omen to him. He told me, *I might 'be aſſur'd it foretold a Plague and a Rot among 'rich Rogues*; *however* (ſaid he) *I ſhall have the 'Pleaſure to fall in good Company*; *for, by my Skill 'in Aſtronomy, I perceive, in a few Months, you 'will ſee many ſtrange Things happen, and I pray 'God preſerve our noble King, our Lives and Safe- 'ties all.* He was going to explain himſelf, when 'we were interrupted by a Viſiter from St. *James*'s 'Coffee-houſe, who gave *Robin* a Fee, and then

'ſaid,

'said, he came to be inform'd by him what the 'Fleet, under A——l ———, was sent out for? 'Sir, says *Robin*, I'll tell you in two Words, *for* 'FUNN. The Politician gave him Thanks, bow'd, 'and returned with great Joy, having received 'the News from so good Hands. Soon after, in 'came a General, and ask'd *Robin* if there was 'War, whether he shou'd command the Army? '*No, Sir*, says the Astrologer, *you'll only be made* '*a Colonel of a Horse, and if I might advise, I* '*wou'd have you take that, or you'll have nothing.* 'Well, Sir, said the great Man, *I'll follow your* '*Advice, but I am myself still.*

'We were interrupted so very often by People, 'eager after the Knowledge of Futurity, I was 'forc'd to appoint some other Time to talk over 'Matters with *Robin*, for you must know he and 'I have been very well acquainted many Years: 'He's a merry gigling Fellow as ever breath'd, 'but the Dog loves Money so well, that he has 'got the Hatred of almost all that know him, on-'ly because he will enrich himself at any Rate; he 'takes money of the poorest People for answering 'them the most trivial Questions in the World; 'nay, I've often seen him send away a Man big 'with the Expectation of getting a great Sum of 'Money very soon, when he has turn'd about to 'me and said, *I have promised that Fool, by Au-* '*thority from the Stars (as I pretended) Mountains of* '*Gold; but I find his Fate is to be fed up with empty* '*Promises from great Men, so I've begun with him.*

'Time will shew whether my Friend *Bob* has 'foretold true or not, therefore (as I put great Con-'fidence in his Predictions) I desire you would make 'this Publick as soon as possible. I am,

Hampstead, Oct. 13, 1726.

SIR, yours,

N. M.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 65. *Monday, September* 12, 1726.

At regina dolos (quis fallere poſſit Amantem ?)
Præſenſit, motuſque excepit prima futuros
Omnia tuta timens.——— VIRG.

MY Poet has ſent me the following Copy of Verſes, and informs me, that they were written by a Gentleman to his Wife, who is troubled with the Pangs of Jealouſy ; theſe, may perhaps ſerve to explain to a great many others, who pine under the ſame Malady, how Love and Innocence may conſiſt with a Careleſſneſs and Gaiety of Behaviour, which it ſeems belongs to his Character.

A SONG.

1.

IN vain my Chloe *you ſuggeſt*
That I, inconſtant have poſſeſt
Or love a fairer ſhe ;
Wou'd you with Eaſe at once be cur'd
Of all the Ills you've long endur'd
Conſult your Glaſs and ſee.

2.

And if you think that I can find,
A Nymph more fair, or truly kind,
You've Reaſon for your Tears :
But if impartial you will prove,
To your own Beauty, and my Love,
How needleſs are your Fears ?

3. *If*

3.

If in my Way, I ſhould by Chance
Receive, or give an am'rous Glance,
I like but while I view:
Mean Objects, which in vain employ
Mine Eyes, which have no Senſe of Joy
But what they get from you.

4.

With wanton Flight the curious Bee,
Wanders from Flow'r to Flow'r free,
And where each Bloſſom blows,
He ſlightly taſtes of all he meets,
But for his Quinteſſence of ſweets
He raviſhes the Roſe.

5.

So I my Paſſions oft employ,
In chaſte Variety of Joy,
From Nymph to Nymph do roam;
Perhaps ſee fifty in a Day,
Theſe are but Viſits which I pay,
My Chloe *is my Home.*

As this is a Paſſion, which has in its Nature the greateſt Malignity, we ought to employ the utmoſt Efforts of our Reaſon to free us from it: It is a Monſter which is not ſatisfied only with the Deſtruction of its Enemies, but very often plunges a Dagger into the Heart of the Object it loves moſt; nor indeed is it ſatisfied there, or ever finds Relief but in the Ruin of itſelf.

There is ſomething ſo unaccountable in the Conduct of jealous Perſons, that they never ſeem to deſire to be undeceiv'd, but only ſtrive to get ſuch Information as may increaſe their Torture; every Look is ſuſpected, every Word miſinterpreted; nay, the abſolute Decay of Nature ſhall often ſerve to multiply their Doubts, and aggravate

aggravate their Misery: And as *Shakespear* says, in the *Moor of Venice.*

Trifles light as Air,
Are to the Jealous Confirmation strong
As Holy Writ.

But he shews the Condition of a jealous Man in much stronger Colours, where he makes *Othello* say,

Had it pleas'd Heaven
To try me with Affliction, had it rain'd
All Kind of Sores, and Shame on my bear Head,
Steep'd me in Poverty to the very Lips,
Given to Captivity me, and my utmost Hopes;
I should have found in some Place of my Soul
A drop of Patience; but alas! to make me
The fix'd Figure for the Time of Scorn
To point his slow and moving Finger at,
Yet I cou'd bear that too, well, very well:
But there, where I had gather'd up my Heart,
Where either I must live or bear no Life,
To be discarded thence!
Or keep it as a Cistern for foul Toads
To knot and gender in, turn thy Complexion there
Patience; I here look grim as Hell.

It is almost impossible to add more to the Sufferings of a jealous Mind; but there are very few who are tormented to such a Degree, and a Man must be of a peculiar Constitution, who can be mov'd in so extraordinary a Manner; the Poet in this fine Description, gives you to understand, that it was not to gratify the Resentments of his Pride alone, that he meditated his cruel Purpose of Revenge; but his Avarice of Love was so great, that he could not bear to think of losing that Treasure, which was dearer to him than Life

Life itſelf: *Cæſar* indeed, upon a like Occaſion, ſeems only to make his jealous Reſentments ſubſervient to his Pride, for when the *Tribune* ſummon'd him in an Aſſembly of the People to accuſe *Clodius* for entring his Houſe in Woman's Apparel, in order to carry on a criminal Correſpondence with his Wife *Pompeia*, and by that Means prophane the Myſteries of the *Bona Dea*. Cæſar *declared he knew nothing of the Matter: Why then* (ſays the Tribune) *have you turned away your Wife?* Cæſar anſwer'd in the haughtieſt Manner, *becauſe the Wife of* Cæſar *ſhould not be ſuſpected.*

I could never account to myſelf, why in ſome Countries this Paſſion runs through the whole Species of Mankind, whilſt their near Neighbours ſeem to be altogether inſenſible of it: In *Spain* and *Italy*, they ſhut up their Wives in their Houſes, nor do they ever admit of Viſiters, unleſs it be of their near Relations; on the Contrary, in *France*, the Huſband and Wife have ſeperate Apartments, a different Set of Acquaintance, and ſeem to know very little of one another's Affairs at all; the Huſband feels no Uneaſineſs from the Conduct of his Wife, nor does ſhe at all trouble herſelf with the Tranſactions of her Huſband; nay, it is ſo far gone, that a married Woman looks out of Countenance, in a publick Aſſembly, if ſhe appears without a Gallant.

If our Hiſtory be true, it was a Cuſtom amongſt us here in *England* formerly, to have a Society of Wives among certain Numbers, and by common Conſent, every Man married a ſingle Woman, who was always after, and alone eſteem'd his Wife; but it was uſual for five or ſix, ten or more, either Brothers or Friends, as they could agree, to have all their Wives in com-

mon; Encounters happened amongſt them, as they were invited by Deſire, or favour'd by Opportunity; every Woman's Children were attributed to him who marry'd her, but all had a Share in the Care and Defence of the whole Society, ſince no Man knew which were his own; by this Cuſtom, they avoided the cruel Miſchiefs that often ariſe from Jealouſy, the Luxury and Expence of many Wives and Concubines, and the Partiality of Parents in the Education of their own Children; but the beſt Excuſe was made upon this Occaſion by a *Britiſh* Woman in the Time of *Severus*, who being familiar with *Julia Auguſta*, and other chief Ladies of that Court, and having obſerv'd what paſt there behind the Curtain, was one Day reproached for this Cuſtom of the *Britains*, as infamous in the Women, as well as barbarous in the Men; ſhe anſwered coldly, *We do that openly with the beſt of our Men, which you do privately with the worſt of yours*; but Time and Experience has poliſh'd our Manners, and by a happy Turn in our Conduct, we have blended all thoſe Virtues in our Converſation which were heretofore look'd upon as unſociable, without following the Rigours of the *Spaniard* and *Italian*, or imitating the Levity of the *French*; we live in a happy Tranquillity, the Freedom of our Ladies is temper'd by the Prudence of their Conduct, and you very rarely hear of a Huſband who is made unhappy by the Indiſcretion of his Wife.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 66. *Monday, October* 24, 1726.

Nulla vis imperii tanta eſt ; quæ premente metu poſſit eſſe diuturna. CIC.

PERHAPS there never was a Government better framed for the Benefit of human Society than that we live in, if we conſider it abſtractedly with the proper Relation, which the three Powers that compoſe it have to one another, and to the whole Community. Each of theſe Powers have certain Privileges of their own, either confirm'd by Law, or ratified by Cuſtom immemorial, and whenever it has happened that one would incroach upon the other, it has always produced ill Effects ; but whatever the Parties aggrieved have ſuffered by theſe Incroachments, they have as often recover'd again, and ſubdued their Oppoſers. It is doubtleſs a great Misfortune to the People, when any Miſunderſtanding occaſions an unwarrantable Attempt of one of theſe Powers upon the other ; but their Condition muſt be ſtill worſe, if it ever ſhould happen, ' that the Par-' liament, being the higheſt and greateſt Court, ' over which none other can have Juriſdiction, ' ſhould by any Means fall into Miſgovernment, ' for in this Caſe (ſays Judge *Hales*) they are left ' without any Manner of Remedy.' This great and excellent Man, had ſo great a Reverence for the Laws then in Being, that he ſeems to tax the Parliament of the 32d of *Henry* VIII. as doing a

Thing againſt Law, for attainting the Earl of *Eſſex* of High-Treaſon, being committed to the *Tower*, and forthcoming to be heard, and yet never call'd upon to anſwer in any of the Houſes of Parliament; for though he owns the Attainder ſtands in Force by Law, yet, *ſays he*, of the Manner of this Proceeding, *Auferet oblivio, ſi poteſt, ſi non, utcunque ſilentium tegat.* This is a rare Caſe, but I muſt obſerve, this has ſeldom happen'd, but when out of Fear, or ſervile Compliance, one Power has departed from its Rights and Privileges to aggrandize another; indeed, the People have an ill Time of it, when theſe Compliments are made; but with Submiſſion to the Authority of this great Man, 'tis contradictory to the Notion of Self-Preſervation, that a delegated Power ſhould give away the Rights of their Principals, by exceeding their Commiſſion: The Commons repreſent all the People of the Nation under the Peerage, they are choſen by the People; and ſome Time ago were paid by them; and, if we look into their Commiſſion, which is the *Writ*, we may ſee they are called together, *pro defenſione regni*, which Words comprehend not only, the putting of the Kingdom in a Condition to defend itſelf from foreign or domeſtick Enemies, but to do every Thing for the Honour of God and his Church, and the Quietneſs of the People. Now, it muſt always be thought a Breach of Truſt, if they *conſent* or *do* any Thing (for theſe are the Words of their Commiſſion) contrary to the Word of God, to the Diſhonour of the Church, or againſt the Quiet of the People; ſo that the Diſmiſſion of the Hierarchy, and the Expulſion of the Lords in King *Charles* the Firſt's Time, and that Attempt made upon the Properties of the People in the

14th

14th of *Henry* VIII. by taxing them at 4*s.* in the Pound, when hardly any landed Eſtate receiv'd a fifth Part of their Revenues in Money, were direct Invaſions and Breaches of that Confidence, which the People repoſed in their Repreſentatives. In the firſt Caſe, there is No-body will diſpute, but that it was lawful for the People to reſiſt, and take up Arms againſt ſo unwarrantable an Uſurpation of the Commons, upon the very Foundations of Government, and the very Words of their Commiſſion. In the ſecond Place, had that Law been enacted (which *Hiſtory* ſays, by the bribing of ſome great Men, would have certainly paſſed the upper Houſe) what muſt the People have done? comply with it, they could not; there was nothing left then but to ſubmit to Impriſonment, or oppoſe Force to Force. A Law that cannot be executed, but by ſhaking the very Foundations of a Government, is void *ab initio*. A Law to make Burgeſſes in Parliament hereditary, would be void in itſelf, becauſe againſt the Freedom of Elections, the very Eſſence of Government; likewiſe a Law to enable the upper Houſe to raiſe Money upon the Subject, by their own Ordinance, would be invalid from the very Nature of it, being directly repugnant to that juſt Equality, which ſhould be obſerved amongſt the People in their Contributions, to preſerve the publick Weal. If a Statute ſhould be made to try all Cauſes criminal by the Martial-Law, ſuch an Act would be inconſiſtent with our Conſtitution, and conſequently ineffectual. In all theſe Caſes (which can never happen without an entire Diſſolution of the whole Frame of our Government) could the People have no Redreſs? indeed, by Law expreſs'd they have none, becauſe ſuch a Conjecture could never be ſuppos'd.

When a Truſt is made, it is generally preſumed to be for the Benefit of both Parties; but can never be imagined to the Detriment of the Truſter: Breach of Truſt is a Violation of all Laws Human and Divine, and rends the very Cement of Society, without which we ſhould be the moſt wretched Beings in the World: There can be no Government without a Subordination, nor any Subordination without a Truſt, and Government itſelf is but a Truſt of the higheſt Nature, whether it be in one or in many; whatever is done to the Detriment of People, is a Violation of that Truſt, and it will be hard to ſay, that in ſuch a Caſe they do wrong if they change their Government, or take Security that the like may not happen for the Future. *Holland* is an Inſtance of the firſt Sort, and it would be ridiculous at this Time to ſay, they live in a State of Rebellion; and of the other Kind, the *Magna Charta* is an eternal Monument of the *Engliſh* Security and Glory.

Happy are we at this Time, that live under a Government, where the conſtituent Powers obſerve that juſt Relation to one another, that their Motions produce nothing but Harmony to themſelves, and Quiet to the People, all Parties (thought once irreconcileable) are now united in one common Intereſt. Splendor, and Magnificence, appear every where, *certain Signs of Wiſdom, and the growing Riches of a Nation.*

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No 67. *Friday, October* 28, 1726.

BEING somewhat indiſpos'd, I ſent for a particular Friend of mine, a Phyſician, more for the Pleaſure of his Company, than any great Occaſion I had for his Skill; but obſerving him more than ordinary ſerious, I could not help enquiring the Occaſion. The Doctor, who with the beſt Underſtanding, has the moſt Good-nature, told me, the Story would be but too public in a little Time, or if not he ſhould not ſcruple to relate it to me; you muſt know, ſays he, that a Gentleman of equal Birth and Fortune, had for a conſiderable time addreſs'd himſelf to *Sidaria*, one of the moſt agreeable Ladies in the Town; but ſhe, by a Prudence in her Conduct, would not ſuffer any Inclination to grow upon her, without the Approbation of her Parents, or at leaſt ſhe would not ſhew it. This kept her Admirer at ſome Diſtance, ſo that nothing particular paſs'd between them, tho' there was no Doubt but by his Behaviour, he preferred *Sidaria* to the reſt of her Sex; and ſhe would have been pleas'd to have had the Liberty of encouraging the Addreſſes of *Florio*, (for ſo was this Gentleman call'd). But it was not this poor Lady's Deſtiny to be happy in Love, for after ſome Time, *Clodio*, happening to ſit near her at the Opera, was inflam'd with the Beauty of this lovely Maid, as his Paſſion was ſtrong, ſo he was very diligent in his Enquiry of what Family ſhe was; as ſoon as he had diſcover'd

this, he went to her Parents with all the Confidence that belongs to a Man, who thinks his Eſtate may make him acceptable every where, declares his Paſſion, and aſks their Conſent to marry her; they did not long deliberate upon an Anſwer to ſo advantageous an Offer, but commanded *Sidaria* to receive this new Lover as one, who in a ſhort time was to be her Huſband. She was not then able to make any Reply to ſo peremptory a Command, but retir'd in the greateſt Perplexity. The avaritious Father concluding with himſelf that this Confuſion of hers might proceed from ſome ſecret Inclination to *Florio*, immediately ſends a Servant to him with the following Letter, which ſhe gave me when I attended her in her Sickneſs.

SIR,

I Hope you will not be ſurpriz'd that I deſire you to refrain from viſiting at my Houſe; ſomething has happened lately for the Advantage of my Daughter, which is abſolutely inconſiſtent with your farther Acquaintance with her. I am,

Sir, Yours.

It is not eaſy to conceive the Aſtoniſhment of *Florio*, upon the Receipt of this Letter. He found himſelf in the greateſt Perplexity; his Paſſion which was before aſſwag'd with a probable Hope, by this Prohibition became outrageous; he meditated a thouſand extravagant Things, not being able to ſupport the Thought of her being another's; but at laſt he came to this Reſolution, of ſending her Father's Letter incloſed in one of his own, which I ſhall tranſcribe.

MADAM,

MADAM,

THE Incloſed is what you will better underſtand than I. But alas! I know enough to convince me, that I am the moſt unhappy Man alive; to be denied your Converſation, is to loſe the very Reaſon of my Continuance in Life; for of what Uſe is Life, when I have not one Thing left that I care for. If you are of your Father's Opinion, I beſeech you let me know it immediately, that I may either yet hope to be happy with you, or end a miſerable Being in ſome remote Place of the World, where I may never trouble you more. I am,

Yours till Death,

FLORIO.

Sidaria has own'd to me ſhe had ſome Pleaſure in reading this Letter, notwithſtanding ſhe knew the Grief of *Florio*, and that ſhe found it impoſſible for her to give him any Conſolation; but ſhe had too much Niceneſs in her Conduct to ſuffer herſelf to be govern'd by a Paſſion, which (ſhe had obſerv'd) led People often into the greateſt Inconveniences; beſide, ſhe could not bear the Thought of giving even her own Huſband that Advantage, as to ever have it in his Power to ſay, ſhe ran away with him; but however, as ſhe had a Value for him, ſhe hop'd Time might compoſe that Tumult in his Mind, and ſhe determin'd to ſend him this Anſwer to his Letter, of which ſhe gave me the Copy.

SIR,

I Can't ſay I am oblig'd to you for your tender Sentiments, becauſe I can't believe them without ſome Uneaſineſs, and I am the more concern'd, becauſe

cauſe it is not in my Power to give you any Relief, without ſacrificing at once both my Duty and Diſcretion; nor can there be any Alternative, for 'tis impoſſible for me to give up my Duty to my Inclination without the Reproach of Folly even from you; therefore I beſeech you think no more of me, but preſerve yourſelf for one who will better deſerve you than,

SIDARIA.

How *Florio* reſented this Anſwer, we never underſtood, for in a few Days he went abroad, and has not been heard of ſince.

In the mean time, *Clodio*'s Impatience was very great, and he often preſs'd for the Conſummation of an Affair he had ſet his Heart upon; at laſt the Ceremony was perform'd with all the Splendor imaginable. But ſee the Viciſſitude of human Affairs! a Month had hardly paſs'd, before this profligate Youth not only ſhew'd Indifference, but the utmoſt Diſtaſte, to this lovely Creature, and ſeldom came home, ſpending whole Nights and Days in all Kinds of Debauchery. The young Lady bore all this Ill-uſage with the moſt prudent Reſignation; but finding herſelf at laſt much diſorder'd in her Health, ſhe complain'd to her Mother, who ſent for me; not obſerving any external Symptom, I had too great Cauſe not to gueſs her Malady, and therefore told her Mother privately, what I fear'd; my Apprehenſions were juſtly grounded; and her Mother inform'd her what ſhe was to undergo; ſhe no ſooner heard her Caſe but ſhe fainted away; after ſome time, recovering a little, ſhe burſt into a Flood of Tears; all her Parents could ſay avail'd nothing. I gave her Hopes as well as I could ſpeak, for indeed it was a melancholy Scene: At laſt, ſhe deſir'd to talk with me alone. After a

long

long Silence, she said, Well, Sir, is it true? and am I that unfortunate Woman you say I am? I answer'd her, that it was certainly so, but that I did not doubt——Here she interrupted me, No, no, Doctor, says she, that is not what I shall wait for, I am resolv'd to die,——take these Letters, my Father will tell you the rest; and here she burst into Tears again, and from that Moment refus'd to take any Nourishment, so that in a few Days she expir'd.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 68. *Monday, October* 31, 1726.

——Utile porro
Filiolam turpi vetulæ producere turpem. Juv.

SOME time ago I went to visit a Friend of mine in the Country, and coming to the Stage-Coach, I found four Persons, who seemed to be out of Humour that they had waited so long for me; as soon as I had seated myself I began to look round me, with a Design to discover what sort of Company I was in, that I might begin such a Conversation as might be agreeable to them, and divert those Hours which are generally so uneasy to all that travel in that Manner. The first Object that struck my Eyes was a beautiful young Creature in a rich Riding-Habit; next to her sat a middle-aged Lady, which I concluded to be a Relation of hers; on my right Hand was an elderly Gentleman in a Dress which shew'd me he was a Person of some Consequence; and on my

my Left a diſſenting Clergyman, whom I had formerly ſeen at a Gentleman's Houſe of my Acquaintance, tho' I believe he had forgot me. The young Lady could not help ſhewing her Diſlike to be confin'd two Days with three ſuch queer Fellows as we were, which I could eaſily perceive by her looking at her Companion and the ſhrugging up her Shoulders, which the other anſwer'd by a Shrug, and immediately ſpreading her Fan before her Face; for ſome Time we continued in a State of profound Taciturnity. The old Gentleman nodding now and then, being overcome with Sleep, whilſt the Parſon entertain'd himſelf by caſting a *Sheep's Eye* very often at this lovely Paſſenger, and, indeed, it was impoſſible to behold ſo fine an Object, without a ſecret Pleaſure. We did not continue long in this peaceable viſionary State, but on a ſudden were interrupted by the old Gentleman, who ſnor'd ſo loud that both the Ladies ſtarted and ſeem'd to be as much alarm'd as if a Piſtol had gone off in the Coach; the Noiſe was ſo great that it awaken'd him, and as ſoon as they recover'd themſelves, they burſt out into a loud Laughter; the old Gentleman conceiving what had happen'd, begg'd the Ladies Pardon, and told them in a very handſome Manner, *that he deſerv'd the Puniſhment of their Contempt for ſeeming to be inſenſible of the Happineſs of the Situation which Fortune had plac'd him in.* This Accident, and the Gentleman's Good-humour on this Occaſion, gave a Riſe to a Converſation which laſted till we came to the Inn; here every Body was emulous in their Reſpect to theſe two Ladies; and when we got into the Coach again, the old Gentleman out of Complaiſance to them, was reſolv'd to forego the Pleaſure of a Pipe of *Tobacco (a Satisfaction* (he ſaid) *he could not have denied himſelf upon any other Occaſion.* During the reſt

reſt of the Morning, we were entertain'd by the elderly Lady, with an Account of this pretty Creature's Family, her Uncle's fine Houſe and Park, with ſome Hints that if he were dead, ſhe would be one of the richeſt young Ladies in *England*; what Offers ſhe had refus'd, and the Reſolution ſhe had taken never to give herſelf to any one, where ſhe had not the greateſt Aſſurance of Happineſs; which ſhe was far from thinking conſiſted in Riches and Honours: As for the *Toupee*-Men and *Beaux* of the Town, they were always her utmoſt Averſion, and ſhe thought it as juſtifiable to make a Contract with a Monkey as with one of theſe Animals. So much Prudence added to ſo much Beauty, could not fail of producing the greateſt Attention and Reſpect for this amiable Perſon; and the old Gentleman ſhaking his Head, and fixing his Eyes on her, ſaid, *he wiſh'd he was to live his Time over again.* The Parſon too, teſtified a Deſire of admitting her into his Flock. For my Part, as I look upon every Body with Benevolence, I could not but admire the Diſcretion of my lovely Fellow-Traveller.

We now arriv'd at the Town where we were to dine, and while we were at Table a Meſſenger comes bluntly into the Room, and told this young Lady that there was *a Gentleman at the* Bear *would be glad to drink a Pint of Wine with her*; upon which ſhe colour'd, and bid him tell his Maſter, *that no Body but an impudent Scoundrel would have taken that Liberty with her*; her Companion too ſpoke very freely upon this Occaſion: In a little Time the Meſſenger comes back again, and with the greateſt Aſſurance ſaid, that his Maſter bid him tell her, *that ſhe was a Bitch,—and ſhould not be ſo ſaucy——for he could have a better* Whore *for Half a Crown,——and that if he ever ſaw her in* London,

he

he would have her ſent to Bridewell. Upon this Reply, our Ladies could not keep their Temper, but ſwore out, that *they would be reveng'd on the Pimp.* I muſt confeſs, tho' I was under a good deal of Concern at firſt, upon the Account of the Inſolence that was offer'd to our Companions, yet by the Manner of their Behaviour in this Debate, I imagin'd I had been miſtaken in my Opinion of them; therefore ſtepping out of the Room with the old Gentleman, (for the Parſon ſtaid with the Ladies) I was inform'd below Stairs, that our fine Lady of Quality was a Woman of the Town, and the other Perſon with her was her *Toad-Eater.*

It ſeems a *Toad-Eater* holds the ſame Poſt to a Woman, that a *Led-Captain* does to a Man. A *Toad-Eater* is a Creature that lives upon the Scraps of Letchery, and is never admitted till the Feaſt is over. She is a Sort of *Bail* for an evil Conſcience, or a Screen againſt Reflection. 'Tis the *Toad-Eater's* Buſineſs to buy Paint and Waſhes, or carry a Suit of Cloaths or a Head-dreſs to the Pawn-Brokers; ſhe adminiſters at the Tea-Table, and is oblig'd by her Office to tell Lyes of all other Women: When ſhe is at any public Place, ſhe is to watch who regards her Miſtreſs, and who looks after any Body elſe, and ſometimes ſhe carries on a private Correſpondence between her and her Surgeon. Theſe are the chief Branches of her Employment; for when ſhe acts in the Capacity of a Bawd, one can't ſuppoſe ſhe does it ſo much upon her Miſtreſs's Account as her own.

After this Accident, the Ladies ſeem'd by their Behaviour, to reſent the Indignity offer'd to them by the Stranger, upon us; which was return'd by the old Gentleman with an equal Contempt; for he ſmoak'd his Pipe in the Coach all the Day afterwards.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 69. *Friday*, *November* 4, 1726.

Qui nimis emungit ; elicit ſanguinem. TAC.

THOSE Nations have always been eſteem'd moſt happy, who live under a Government founded upon Liberty, whoſe Lives and Properties are defended by Laws, and not ſubject to the Inſults or Caprice of any particular Perſon ; and I believe there never was an Inſtance of any People who roſe againſt their Governors, as long as they kept themſelves within thoſe Bounds. But ſuch are the Charms of Power, that Men very often, tho' they know that by the Nature of their Employments they are deputed to ſerve the Public, yet they will abuſe that Truſt, and by their Folly and Ambition pretend to claim a Right in that which was deliver'd to them only as Stewards and Servants ; inſtead of intereſting themſelves for the Good of their Country, and by a frugal Adminiſtration having a Regard to the Properties of their Fellow-Subjects, they chuſe rather to purſue new and ſenſeleſs Schemes of their own, which they will ſupport at the utmoſt Expence and Profuſion, and to colour their Iniquity, have ſometimes found the Means by Corruption, or otherways, to give them the Sanction of Law. There is a very remarkable Inſtance of this Sort in the Caſe of Mr. *Hampden*, in King *Charles* the Firſt's Time, upon a *Scire Facias* iſſued againſt him for refuſing to pay Money aſſeſſed upon him, with the reſt

reſt of the Inhabitants of the County of *Buckingham*, under Pretence that the ſaid County ſhould provide a Ship of 450 Tons, with 180 Men, with all other Neceſſaries for 26 Weeks. And becauſe the ſaid Mr. *Hampden* refuſed to pay this Money, conceiving this Aſſeſſment not warranted by Law, he was impriſon'd, and afterwards upon a Trial, this Matter was referr'd to all the Judges in *England*, in the *Exchequer-Chamber*, who all declar'd their Opinion (except Mr. Juſtice *Hutton* and Mr. Juſtice *Crook*) againſt Mr. *Hampden*. This was a Seaſon when arbitrary Power was carried to a great Height by the fatal Advice of corrupt and ambitious Miniſters, and the People endur'd innumerable Hardſhips with an unparallel'd Reſignation; and imputed their Calamities only to thoſe wicked Counſels, which they hoped one time or other might be removed from his Majeſty. But when they ſaw the Actions of thoſe *Harpyes*, thoſe ſecret Traytors both to their Prince and Country, juſtified by a pretended Law, it was then obvious there was a Conſpiracy againſt their Liberties and Properties, and they could no longer reſpect the Majeſty of the King, who by his ſupporting thoſe wanton Plunderers, thoſe *legal* Robbers, they were to loſe every Thing that was valuable in Life. Every Body that reads the Hiſtory of thoſe Times, will plainly ſee, that the Diſſolution of the Parliament in 1640, was chiefly occaſion'd by the Courtiers inſiſting upon the Legality of this Proceeding, which gave Riſe to all thoſe Misfortunes which befel this Country in the Conſequence of that unſeaſonable Advice.

Nothing is ſo common as for Men when they are placed in a high Situation, to forget their former Condition, and become drunk with Power, and inſtead of convincing the People of the real Neceſſities there may be to ſupport the Govern-

ment,

ment, and perſuading them to a willing Compliance, they rather chuſe to make uſe of Sovereign Authority to extort from them what they want, and in what Manner they pleaſe, and care not what Waſte is made of the Public, rather than that they ſhall be oppos'd in any Project, however nonſenſical or detrimental it may be to the Commonwealth; as may be inſtanc'd in the vain Attempt of the Duke of *Buckingham* upon *Cadiz*; and other more modern Enterpriſes of the like Nature, which ſerv'd to no other Purpoſe but to ſhew the Folly and Inſolence of the Projectors. How many Millions have been ſquander'd away in ſuch uſeleſs and inſignificant Undertakings? and the Patrimonies, Induſtry, and Labours of the honeſteſt and beſt Subjects have been rack'd to make up Funds for theſe chimerical Heroes, as if Mankind had nothing elſe to do but to toil and work, to ſupport the Vanity and Madneſs of theſe wild and extravagant Knights-Errant in Politics. I remember it was ſaid of the Miniſters in a *former Reign*, that they might have a Pretence of dividing the public Money amongſt them, they reſolv'd upon an Expedition; accordingly, great Preparations were made to attack *Terra Borealis Incognita*, and under the Colour of this Expence, they endeavour'd to conceal their Roguery.

One would wonder (here in *England* eſpecially) how any Man can be ſo hardy, as to adviſe, or attempt to lay extravagant Burthens upon a People, who by the Nature of their Conſtitution are perſonally repreſented every Year in the Legiſlature, and who have in ſo many Inſtances call'd them to an Account for Miſmanagements: But what will not Pride and Avarice do? And when Men once believe themſelves ſecure in the Poſſeſſion of an exorbitant Power, they let looſe the Reins of Rapine

and Violence, and look upon the reſt of the World as ſo many Slaves, or Beaſts deſign'd only for their Uſe, and ſubſervient to their unruly Luſts and Appetites. There is a remarkable Story mention'd by *Balzac*, of a *Grecian* Phyſician in the Court of *Xerxes*, who longing for the delicious Fruits of his native Country, had Intereſt enough with the Queen to perſuade the Emperor to make War againſt the *Athenian* State; accordingly this great Prince raiſed an Army of above three hundred thouſand Men, who cut their Way through Mountains, drank up Rivers, and cover'd the Ocean with their Fleets to conduct this *Quack* to his Patrimony, moſt of which periſh'd in the Attempt: *One would have thought* (ſays the ingenious Author) *that this Fellow might have perform'd his Journey at a more moderate Expence, and with leſs Company.* Behold here the monſtrous Councils of a Favourite ſupported by arbitrary Power! But if we look into the Hiſtory of our own Country, we may more plainly diſcern the evil Conſequences of the licentious Adminiſtration of an ambitious and haughty Miniſter. Cardinal *Wolſey* had undertaken the King ſhould never want as long as he might manage the public Affairs, by which Means every Thing was committed to him; accordingly, in the 17th Year of King *Henry*'s Reign, Commiſſions were made forth into all the Counties of *England*, for levying the ſixth Part of every Layman's Goods, and the fourth of the Clergy's. The People reſented this Uſage in ſuch a Manner, that it was likely to have grown into an univerſal Rebellion, and ſome in the Country had actually taken Arms. As this was a Matter againſt Law, upon a Repreſentation to his Majeſty, he diſavow'd the whole Proceeding. My Lord *Herbert*, on this Occaſion ſays, *Princes ought to take heed into whoſe Hands they commit their extraor-*

traordinary Power, leſt it hazard their ordinary, it being the Clue of that Labyrinth of State, which ought not raſhly to be put into another's Hand. Neither ſhould they enforce any Thing thus violently, when Buſineſs may be done in a calm and gentle Manner; the Harmony of Government conſiſting in ſuch a delicate Proportion, that no one Part can ſafely be ſtrained higher unleſs the reſt may be well tuned and accorded thereunto.

Property is as dear to People as their Lives, and they will always venture their Lives to preſerve it; and the very Foundation and Reaſons of levying Taxes is or ought to be for the Security of Property, and therefore all wiſe Governments have convinc'd the People of this Truth, and laid before them the Neceſſity of ſuch Contributions. 'Tis to this happy Management at preſent, that our Countrymen quietly bear ſo great a Burthen; being all aſſur'd, that nothing is demanded of them but what is juſt and adequate to the Occaſions.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 70. *Monday, November* 7, 1726.

Principis eſt virtus maxima noſſe ſuos. MART.

Machiavel, in his Advice to a Prince about the Election of a Miniſter, has theſe remarkable Words; 'When you obſerve your Officer more careful of himſelf than 'of you, and all his Actions and Deſigns pointing 'at his own Intereſt and Advantage, that Man will 'never be a good Miniſter, nor ought you ever to

'repoſe any Confidence in him; for he who has 'the Affairs of his Prince in his Hand, ought to 'lay aſide all Thoughts of himſelf, and regard no-'thing but what is for the Profit of his Maſter.'

This Admonition, tho' deſign'd only for a deſpotic Prince, may be a certain *Criterion* of a good Miniſter in a limited Monarchy, and perhaps is capable of a better Explanation, even under an abſolute *one*, than was intended by that great Stateſman: The true Intereſt of any Prince being certainly founded upon the Happineſs and Proſperity of his People, which will ſurely be neglected if a Miniſter is only intent upon enriching himſelf, or making uſe of the public Money to corrupt ſuch Creatures as are neceſſary to the eſtabliſhing of his Power: For let People ſay what they will, they muſt think, that Bribes are the Wages of Slaves and Sycophants, rather than the Rewards of the Honeſt and Virtuous; nor does the diffuſive Generoſity of the *Great* ſhine ſo much among the Meritorious, as among thoſe who are ſubſervient to their Luſts and Appetites.

There never was an Example of a Prince who was better ſerv'd than Queen *Elizabeth*; yet, except the Largeſſes ſhe beſtow'd on the Earl of *Eſſex*, how ſparing was ſhe in all her Liberalities? Her Miniſters had no other View than to execute their Charge with Honour and Juſtice; the Good of their Country was their ſole Aim; the Object of all their great Thoughts and Machinations; and as long as they govern'd well, they had no Occaſion to purchaſe Applauſe with Bribes and Penſions. This is the Artifice of baſe Policy; the Subterfuge of low and wicked Deſigners, who are either ignorant or fearful of adviſing; the wretched Method to cover or rather palliate Miſtakes, and ſupport themſelves with the Ruin of their Country.

What

What a glorious Example of public Virtue do we read of in the Conduct of *Don Lewis de Haro*, who after the Concluſion of the Peace of the *Pyrenees*, was heard to ſay, *I have ruin'd myſelf but I have ſav'd my Country.*

What an unfaſhionable Piece of Policy is this! Where ſhall we look for a *Miniſter* now who would give ſuch Advice? This diſintereſted *Roman* Spirit is buried in the Ruins of that Commonwealth, and hardly ſhoots out once in an Age.

But tho' in this degenerate State of Nature we are not to expect thoſe refin'd Sentiments of Honeſty, yet certainly, ſo much at leaſt every Man owes to the Society he lives in, as not to employ that Power and Authority with which he is intruſted, to the Deſtruction of it; and by an infamous Cunning inveigle and draw off the Members of the Community by the Temptation of Money, to be Sharers in the Guilt. The Conſent of the *Taker* in this Caſe, does no more juſtify the Conduct of the *Giver*, than the Compliance of a Virgin excuſes the Villany of him who debauches her; they indeed are both criminal, but certainly the *Tempter* is criminal in the higheſt Degree. It muſt be likewiſe a ſcandalous Apology for any Man to ſay, who holds the Reins of an Adminiſtration, *that it is impoſſible to govern without thoſe Diſtributions:* This is the moſt ignominious Reproach upon a People, and enervates the very Foundations of the Laws and Rules of a civil Society. It argues, that all Allegiance is venal, and that Men hold themſelves no longer oblig'd to Subjection than they are paid for it. But alas! what Condition are thoſe Millions of People in by this Argument, who are no otherways concern'd in this Profuſion, but as they are oblig'd whether they will or no, to con-

tribute their Share in the Support and Maintenance of theſe *mercenary* Patriots.

'*Demades*, the Orator, a powerful Man in *Athens*, 'being, as he thought, oblig'd to write and ſpeak 'many Things below the Dignity and contrary to 'the Uſage of the City, excus'd himſelf by ſaying, '*he ſteer'd only the Shipwrecks of the Commonwealth.* 'But the Truth was, that this great Man was him-'ſelf the Ruin of his Country, by living and ruling 'ſo diſſolutely.'

If a Man comes to a diſtemper'd Government, is he to comply with thoſe Meaſures which brought it under this unhappy Condition? Is he not in this Caſe acceſſary to its Deſtruction? Shall it be any Excuſe in him to ſay, *he found it ſo*, and not ſhew the leaſt Inclination, or ſtir one Step to recover it? Does not ſuch a Man diſcover plainly that the Deſire of Rule is all he aims at? and that provided the Commonwealth can ride out while he is at the Helm, he cares not how ſoon ſhe may ſink afterwards. Where then is the Merit of ſuch a Man? Why is that partial Favour ſhewn to his Conduct? who means nothing but enriching himſelf and aggrandizing his Family, without the leaſt Regard to thoſe, out of whoſe Properties alone he could poſſibly bring this about.

I ſhall conclude my Obſervations on this Subject with an Admonition from Monſieur *de la Bruyere*. 'All you who are in great Poſts, public Miniſters, 'Favourites, give me leave to adviſe you. Intruſt 'not the Care of your Memory with your Progeny, 'expect not that they will preſerve the Luſtre of 'your Names; great Titles fly away, Favour va-'niſhes, Honours leave their Poſſeſſors, Riches 'diſſipate, and Merit degenerates: 'Tis true, you 'may have Children worthy yourſelves, and ca-'pable of maintaining the Character you leave 'them,

'them, but can you promiſe yourſelves to be as 'fortunate in your Grand-Children? will you 'not believe me? caſt your Eyes for once on 'certain Men, whom you cannot look on with-'out Scorn and Diſdain, they are deſcended 'from the very Men (great as you are) whom 'you ſucceed. Be virtuous and humane, and if 'you aſk what more is neceſſary, in anſwer I 'muſt tell you, be more virtuous and more hu-'mane; then ſhall you command a laſting Fame, 'and be independent on Poſterity; ſure to 'live as long as Monarchy endures, and when 'future Generations ſhall walk over the Ruins 'of your ſtrongeſt Caſtles, and nobleſt Edifices, 'the Idea of your great Actions will ſtill remain 'freſh in their Minds; they'll greedily collect 'your Medals and Portraits. This they will 'ſay, is the Effigy of a Man who dar'd ſpeak 'to his Prince with Force and Freedom, and 'was more afraid of injuring him than diſ-'pleaſing him: He endeavoured to make him 'a good Prince, the Father of his Country; and 'taught him to ſay, *My People's Intereſt and 'mine are undivided.*'

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 71. *Friday, November* 11, 1726.

Quid in hac mirabile tantopere eat oé,
Si genus humanum, cui vox & lingua vigeret
Pro vario ſenſu varias res voce notaret.

The following Letter being next on the File, claims a Place in this Paper.

SIR,

'AMONG the ſeveral Abuſes you 'have undertaken to redreſs, I think 'it would be highly commendable in 'you to rectify that of *Speech*, ſo many 'odd Phraſes have lately crept into Converſa-'tion, that if a Man has been abſent from the 'Town a little while, he's at a Loſs to know 'what People ſay to him. I went into the '*Tennis-Court* the other Day, where I ſaw two 'Gentlemen at Play, and I overheard one of the 'By-ſtanders whiſper to another; *Bet what 'you will, I'll go your Halves*;—*'tis all Rugg*. I 'could not imagine what he meant, till the 'Event of the Game ſhew'd me, that one of 'them could not win. The very ſame Day I 'was with ſome Lawyers at a Tavern, who 'were talking over a Cauſe, which was likely 'to have an Iſſue, for the Advantage of him 'who had the worſt Title, purely by the Effect 'of managing (for ſo they call'd it) of the Wit-'neſſes,

'neſſes, and they deſcribed the probable Suc-
'ceſs of this Affair, by ſaying it was all *Bob*:
'Now, pray Sir, what has *Rugg* or *Bob*, to do
'with the Events of Superiority or Bribery; if
'there is any Reaſon for this, I deſire you will
'explain it, and you will oblige

Your humble Servant,

LUCIUS VERUS.

This Letter incites me to treat of the Origin of Speech; and thoſe common and uſeful Signs which were introduced by Men, for Sake of communicating their Sentiments to one another. *Diodorus Siculus* gives us this odd Account, 'The 'firſt Men who were born into the World, led a 'Savage Life, without Culture or Refinement, 'going out in Herds to the Paſtures, and feeding 'on the moſt juicy Plants, and thoſe Fruits which 'plain Nature produced. Being infeſted with 'wild Beaſts, Uſe taught them to aſſiſt each o-'ther, and Fear compell'd them into Society; 'by Means of which, they grew acquainted by 'Degrees, with the Reſemblance of their Shapes 'and Features; and having from confus'd Voice, 'and without Signification, arrived by ſlow At-'tempts to pronounce articulate Words, ſhewing 'every Thing by Signs, that they had Occaſion 'to obſerve, and to communicate; they at length 'gain'd Ability to inform one another of all Mat-'ters by Diſcourſe, but in as much as there were 'many of thoſe Communities eſtabliſh'd in dif-'ferent Parts of the World, and every Man 'join'd his Words together meerly, as it hap-'pened, all did not ſpeak in the ſame Manner, 'and hence aroſe the Number and the Variety of 'all Sorts of Languages.' This Account differs very much from that which is given in the holy

holy Scriptures; that the firſt Language was immediately infus'd into the Original Pair; and the Diverſity of Tongues, miraculouſly produc'd by the Confuſion of *Babel*. If we conſider it either Way, doubtleſs, the firſt Language muſt have been very poor and barren, till Time and Experience enrich'd it with Copiouſneſs and Elegance.

There is nothing more certain, than that Words in themſelves ſignify nothing, only as by common Conſent they are applied to notify Things, and their Relations to one another; thus the Word *Mallet* might as well have ſignified a *Chiſſel*, or the Word *Chiſſel* have been applied to a *Mallet*, there being Nothing in theſe Words that ſignifies either the Nature or Uſe of thoſe ſeveral Inſtruments, nor can we claim any other Origin for thoſe Names, but the Impoſition of Men; for whatever Advantages Men might have had before the Flood, to ſpeak as it were naturally without being taught, and by the Names of Things, only to ſignify their Nature and Uſe, as well as to be able to preſerve a living Language 1771 Years without any Alteration, yet we find no ſuch Thing now; on the Contrary, we are ſure, that unleſs our Infants were taught to ſpeak, they would differ very little from brute Beaſts, for ſome Time at leaſt, as to the Modulation of their Voices, though in all Probability, were they left to themſelves, they might ſoon agree upon ſome certain articulate Sounds, to ſignify their Ideas, having in this Reſpect a Capacity ſuperior to all other of the animal Creation, that we know off.

Words then and Signs, have obtained a certain and determinate Meaning by common Conſent, and the Impoſition of Men, ſo that when ſuch

ſuch Words or Signs are uſed, the Perſons ſo uſing them, ſhall be ſuppoſed to expreſs their internal Meaning; and indeed, the ſame Thing may be ſaid of theſe additional Marks which ariſe from the various Tones of the Voice in ſpeaking the ſame Words; as likewiſe, from particular Geſtures of the Hands or Face, uſed at the Time of our Expreſſions, all which either aggravate or diminiſh, and ſometimes alter the original Meaning and Signification of Words; thus the ſame Queſtion aſk'd by one Man, ſhall have a quite different Meaning from the ſame Queſtion aſk'd by another; as for Inſtance, upon the Publication of ſuch a Work, *Thomas*, a well meaning Man, aſks his Friend, *whether* Eugenius *be the Author of it?* if he is anſwer'd in the Affirmative, *Peter* ſtanding by, cries out, *is he the Author?* by theſe Words, *Thomas* wants only to ſatisfy his Curioſity, and know the Truth; but *Peter*, by adding a different Sound to the ſame Words, ſeems to imply that he does not believe *Eugenius* capable of the Compoſition.

There are a great many other Accidents which ariſe to give a Value to, or depreciate the ſame Words; thus the ſame Words ſpoke by a *firſt Miniſter*, or any *Subaltern Officer* in Favour, are commended and repeated again in another Place, to his Advantage; but when it happens, that this Man and his Creatures are in Diſgrace, theſe Words wont do, they loſe all their Energy and Beauty, and are no more than any Body elſe might have ſaid.

It happens too ſometimes, that the ſame Words which were ignominious and ſcandalous at one Seaſon, become juſt and honourable at another. Thus had any Body ſaid, in King *Charles* the Firſt's Time, that *the Parliament of*

1640,

1640, *ought to be under Discipline*, he would have been call'd a Parracide, and the Betrayer of the Liberties of his Country; yet People were reconcil'd to this very Phrase afterwards, and truly a Man was look'd upon as a disaffected Person, and with the utmost Contempt, that spoke against this infamous Imposition.

But notwithstanding, Words have lost their original Simplicity and Purity, and appear under these Disguises, yet they really deceive but a few People; so that though in the City, a *hundred thousand* Pounds give a Man the Character of a *good Man*, those cunning *Mercantiles* know very well, that the Epithet, *Good*, in that Sense, is often applied to a *Knave*, as well as they at the Court End of the Town, understand very often, that by a *great Man*, is not always meant a Person possess'd of laudable Qualities, or one that has distinguish'd himself by renown'd and virtuous Actions, but that it sometimes signifies a Man who deserves the *Gallows*.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 72. *Monday, November* 14, 1726.

Vos ego, pupilli; moneo, quibus amplior est res,
Custodite animas, & nuli credite mensæ. JUV.

PRIDE arises from that Superiority which one Man thinks he has over another in any extraordinary Perfection of Art or Nature; and therefore, there can be no Doubt, but that Dr. *Lamb*, for his singular

ſingular Dexterity in curing of *Corns*, looks upon himſelf to be as conſiderable a Perſon as Dr. *Hervey*, who diſcovered the *Circulation of the Blood*, and Mr. *Figg*, that great Maſter of the *Science* of *Defence*, has no leſs Satisfaction than *Alexander* the *Great*, after he had made the Conqueſt of the whole World; I don't know whether I ſhould mention among theſe great Names, Mr. *John Moor*, *Apothecary*, ſo famous for his *Worm-Powder*, or the more inglorious Author of the Specific for killing of *Bugs*, but from the frequent Advertiſements of their Succeſs againſt theſe offenſive Animals, we muſt believe they claim to themſelves the greateſt Honours; for my Part, I ſhall always yield a ready Homage to thoſe Men, who are eminent in any uſeful Talents, however backward I may be in giving any Applauſe to others, who are extraordinary in Actions hurtful or loathſome; therefore, I cannot eſteem Mr. *Vinegar* for a Heroe, though he has broke ſo many Heads in *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, and the *Bear-Garden*, and muſt value the famous *Phyſician* (who recommends the Uſe of Water) much more for his Treatiſe on that Subject, than for his eating nineteen Mackrel for a Wager, after a plentiful Dinner: I never think of the renowned Counſellor *Wallop* but with Contempt, though he is recorded in all the *Ordinaries* about the *Temple*, to have eaten more *Pudding* at a Meal than would have ſerv'd ten reaſonable Men; and it was with the utmoſt Deteſtation, I heard a Gentleman ſay (whoſe Name was *Julius Cæſar*) that he had once drank a *Dutchman* dead on the Spot, with Bumpers of *Brandy*.

I remember ſome Years ago, a Gentleman depending on his carnal Capacity, challenged another of no inferior Fame of Appetite, to eat

Roaſt-

Roaſt-beef for a Sum of Money. The Acceptor of the Challenge being aſk'd next Day, what Succeſs he had in his Undertaking with his Rival, anſwered with the greateſt Diſdain, *Hang him, I beat him three Slices before I came to Vinegar:* This Perſon was look'd upon ever afterwards, *to play the cleaneſt Knife of any Man in* England; indeed, at preſent I don't hear of many of theſe remarkable carnivorous Animals which may be in a great Meaſure owing to thoſe excellent Books, which have been writ lately, to ſhew the ill Effects of Gluttony; and I could wiſh my *Countrymen* would follow theſe Authors Advice, in Reſpect to exceſſive Drinking, which not only impairs the Health, and debilitates the Mind, but for the Time at leaſt, puts a Blockhead upon a Level with a Man of a good Underſtanding; and I wiſh the Freeholders, and other Electors of the Repreſentatives of our Nation, would conſider, that whilſt the Candidates are purchaſing their Votes with *Port* and *Stale-Beer*, they are at the ſame Time pouring into their Veins innumerable Diſeaſes, which if they do not terminate in Death, will enervate their Vigour, and render them unfit for their ſeveral Occupations; I would not be thought at the ſame Time ſo ſevere as to forbid thoſe innocent Meetings and Entertainments, which enliven Society, and render Neighbours and Acquaintance more dear to one another, my Deſign only being to reduce thoſe Exceſſes which Men fall into, out of Compliance or Imitation of others, and which are always attended with ill Conſequences; how many Meetings are there in *England*, where People go with a Certainty of being drunk before they part? and what a wretched Triumph is that of having loſt two or three of our intimate Acquaintance under the

the Table in this beaſtly Condition; theſe premeditated Debauches puts me in mind of the Supper made by *Alexander* the *Great*, to celebrate the voluntary Death of *Calanus* the *Philoſopher*, where inviting a great many of his Friends and principal Officers, he propos'd a drinking Match, in which the Victor ſhould be crown'd. *Promachus* drank eighteen Quarts of Wine, and won the Prize, but he ſurviv'd his Victory but three Days, and was followed by one and forty more, who died of the ſame Debauch in a little Time after.

I have often thought it a ſcandalous Abuſe of the Memory of thoſe renown'd and pious Patrons who preſide over the four Kingdoms, which at preſent compoſe the *Britiſh* Empire, that the Feſtivals appointed for the Celebration of their great Actions ſhould be diſgraced by Exceſs and Riot; and am of an Opinion, that were theſe ſanctified Heroes now alive, they would think themſelves as much oblig'd to ſuppreſs theſe unruly Societies, as they did the leſs offenſive *Giants* of old. At preſent indeed, one would think, from the ſeveral regimented Societies, ſuch as the Free-Maſons, Gormagons, *&c.* that drinking was become Part of our Conſtitution, and that no Man was look'd upon to have any Thing to do with the Commonwealth that had not paſſed through the Forms of one or other of theſe guzzling Clubs; nay, ſo far have they extended their Power, that they uſurp the ſacred Title of HONEST, and apply it to the hardeſt Drinker of the Company; and by this Means, they would make us believe Intemperance is a moral Virtue, and becauſe there is no Stop put to theſe Enormities, the *Vintners* have preſumed to give themſelves an Air of Sanctity, by affixing on their Sign-Poſts the Portraits of ſuch holy

holy Men, who were remarkable for Sobriety. My ingenious and worthy Friend *A. N. Inſpector of the Sign-Poſts*, ſent me the following Letter ſome Days ago, which he receiv'd from one of his Correſpondents, who is ſcandaliz'd at this Proceeding.

S I R,

'A Few Weeks ſince, I obſerv'd upon *Ludgate-Hill*, a new Sign of St. *Paul*, before a 'Tavern, I always had a Notion, that this Apoſtle was a Preacher againſt Gluttony and Drunkenneſs, and all other Works of Darkneſs, but 'not (as he is made there) an Introducer to them; 'in this Place he looks more like a Promoter of 'Vice than Virtue; pray Sir, be pleaſed to inform 'me, what *Bacchus* is to repreſent, now St. *Paul* 'ſupplies his Place? in complying with which, 'you will much oblige

Your humble Servant, M. S.

My Friend *A. N.* informs me farther, that he has ſeen St. *John the Baptiſt*'s Head hung up for the ſame Purpoſe, not to mention St. *George*, St. *Andrew*, St. *David*, and St. *Patrick*, who are mounted before *Ale-Houſes*; he deſires he may have a Clauſe added to his Commiſſion, with Powers equal to thoſe of the *Heralds* Officers, who have a Liberty to rub out or dawb over any *Coats* of *Arms* aſſum'd by People who have no Right to 'em; he likewiſe deſires, he may have a Power of ſummoning ſuch Inhabitants before him, who affix Labels or Sentences on or before their Houſes, which no Body can underſtand the Meaning why they are there, ſuch as *God's Providence is my Inheritance*, on a Houſe in *Berwickſtreet*, and

this

this is the Bagnio of Honour, on another in *Panton-ſtreet*.

I have thought it highly reaſonable to comply with the Requeſt of my ingenious Friend, and accordingly have ordered my principal Secretary *Will Teſty*, to make out a new Commiſſion, with ſuch further Powers, as may enable this diligent Officer to rectify all ſuch Abuſes as ſhall come within his Province.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 73. *Friday, November* 18, 1726.

Annua paſtorum convivia, luſus in urbe
Cum pagana madent fercula deliciis. PROP.

THERE are few of that *Saturnine* Temper, but what are affected with Mirth and Jollity, and chuſe ſometimes to unbend their Minds with Feaſts and Shews: *Socrates* himſelf reckoned the wiſeſt of Men uſed often to go to the Theatre, and even be preſent at thoſe Performances, when he himſelf was ridiculed; and it is recorded of *Cato*, the *rigid* and *ſevere*, that he ſpent many Hours with his Friends in an Evening over a Bottle; I cannot think it adds any Thing to the Greatneſs of *Phocion*'s Character, that he was never ſeen to *laugh* or to *cry*: There is ſomething in the Nature of Man which inclines him to Joy and Mirth, inſomuch that ſome of the Philoſophers have defined him to be a *riſible Animal*; if we look

into Hiſtory, we ſhall find all Countries in all Ages, ſet apart certain Days for Gaiety and Merriment; and the *Bacchanalia* was Part of the Religion of the *Romans*; beſides that, no People in the Univerſe ever came near them in the Magnificence of their publick Shews.

The *Carnivals* over all the *Popiſh* and *Lutheran* Countries, are ſo many continued Scenes of Pleaſure, and our *Chriſtmas* Holidays are generally ſpent in Junketting and good Fellowſhip; Cuſtom has in this Particular been very reaſonable, to give Men an Opportunity of enjoying the Fruits of their Labour, without the Interruption of Buſineſs; theſe little Vacancies are ſo many Reliefs, and make the Induſtrious go through the Cares of Life with greater Chearfulneſs; at theſe Seaſons, the common People invent a Thouſand little Plays, and Recreations; and he is look'd upon as the happieſt Man that laughs the loudeſt.

People of Faſhion indeed, are not confined to any particular Times, but are equally anxious to paſs away their Hours in Mirth and Pleaſantry; it was part of the Grandeur of the *Engliſh* Nobility formerly, to keep a *Fool* or *Jeſter* in their Houſes, by which Means they were often *merry at their own Expences*; but as one Man could never have a Fund for a continued Entertainment at Home, Invention has been put upon the Rack, to find out ſomething to amuſe them Abroad; hence have ſprung theſe various Repreſentations and Games, which at preſent take up the moſt important Hours of many of our Countrymen.

The Theatre indeed of all others, ſhould have the Preference, becauſe it exhibits manly and rational Performances; *here* may be ſeen all thoſe Images of Life which render Virtue amiable, and ſhew the Folly and Deformity of Vice; *here* a Man

Man may learn how to make himſelf agreeable and eſteemed in the World, and avoid thoſe Shelves and Rocks which the ridiculous and abſurd ſo often ſplit upon.

Puppet Shews, Rope-Dancing, and Prize-Fighting, owe their Riſe to the ſame Principle, and have met with Encouragement from thoſe who are either weary of their ſeveral Occupations, or don't know otherways how to employ their Time.

The Clubs that are aſſociated for Drinking in the ſeveral Parts of this Iſland, meet, either for a Relaxation from the Buſineſs of the Day, or for Idleneſs, the greateſt Burthen of the Two.

But the fineſt Opportunity for Suſpenſion of Thought, is at preſent at our *Operas*; by the vaſt Improvement of the Science of Muſick, the Power of inarticulate Sounds is carried to ſuch a Heighth, that the Inſtruments ſeem to have a better Meaning than the Performers, and the modulated Sounds of the *Actors* convey to us thoſe Sentiments which they themſelves would be unable to do by their Words, tho' they were underſtood; I am not in the leaſt ſurpriſed to ſee ſo many People at theſe muſical Performances, when I conſider the Power of Sound, and how arbitrarily it governs our Souls. *Alexander* the *Great*, tho' Conqueror of the World, upon hearing *Timotheus* play a Martial Air, was ſo animated, that he ſtarted from the Table, and poſſeſſed with a Military Fury, called for his Horſe and his Arms; and the ſame Muſician by another pathetick Air, ſo appeaſed the warlike Tumult of his Mind, that he ſate down quietly to his Meat again.

Yet among all the Entertainments which have been invented to amuſe and pleaſe Mankind, nothing is ſo full and ſprightly as our *Maſquerade*,

the Splendor of the Apartments, the Brightneſs of the Illuminations, the rich Variety of Habits, and the Profuſion of Delicacies; with thoſe Opportunities of being witty and diſcovering one's ſelf, or being dull and concealed; beſides, the vain Hopes of I know not *what*, with I know not *who*, are ſuch powerful Temptations, to leave *Kindred*, *Shops*, and *Offices*, to take Care of themſelves, that I wonder any Body ever ſtays at Home upon this Occaſion.

This Sort of Diverſion, as it is the greateſt Improvement of human Invention, is perform'd in all the polite Courts of *Europe*; I hope it may entertain my Reader, to give him an Account of a *Maſquerade* at *Peterſbourg*, where the *Czar*, and a great Part of the *Ruſſian* Nobility were preſent; which is (as I have tranſcrib'd it from the Journal of a foreign Miniſter who reſided there) as follows.

'Preparations having been made by the whole 'Court, during three Months for a *great Maſque-* 'rade; the ſame was at Length kept on the '27*th* and 28*th* of *January*; I will relate the 'main Particulars, the World never having heard, 'for ought I know, of the like before; the 'Occaſion of this Maſquerade was a Wedding; 'one *Lotoff*, who had been the *Czar's* Writing-'Maſter in his Majeſty's younger Years, was in 'in 70*th* Year of his Age, advanced to be his 'Jeſter, or Merry-making *Privy-Counſellor*, and 'afterwards *Mock-Patriarch*; moreover, for Hu-'mour's Sake, he was raiſed to the Dignity of a '*Prince*, and at Length declar'd *Pope*, inveſted 'with thoſe imaginary Characters, and being now 'in the 84*th* of his Age, the Czar married him 'to a buxom Widow of 34, and the Nuptials of 'this extraordinary Couple were ſolemniz'd by the 'Court in Maſks or Mock-Shew; the Company

'conſiſted

'consisted of about 400 Persons, of both Sexes; 'every four Persons had their proper Dress, and 'peculiar Instruments, so that they represented a 'hundred different Sorts of Habits and Musick, 'particularly of the *Asiatick* Nations; the four 'Persons appointed to invite the Guests, were the 'greatest Stammerers that could be found in all '*Russia*; old decrepit Men who were not able to 'walk or stand, had been pick'd out to serve for 'Bridesmen, Stewards, and Waiters; there were 'four running Footmen, the most unweildly Fel-'lows, who had been troubled with the Gout most 'of their Life-time, and were so fat and bulky, 'that they wanted others to lead them: the *Mock* '*Czar of Moscow*, who represented King *David* in 'his Dress, instead of a Harp, had a Lyre cover'd 'with a Bear-Skin to play upon; he being the 'Chief of the Company, was carried on a sort of 'Pageant placed on a Sledge, to the four Corners of 'which were tied as many Bears, which being 'prick'd with Goads by Fellows purposely ap-'pointed for it, made such a frightful roaring as 'well suited the confus'd and horrible Dinn raised 'by the disagreeing Instruments of the rest of the 'Company. The *Czar* himself was dressed lik'd 'a Boar of *Friezland*, and skilfully beat a Drum 'in Company with three Generals; in this Man-'ner, Bells ringing every where, the ill-match'd 'Couple were attended by the Masks to the Altar 'of the great Church, where they were joined in 'Matrimony by a Priest an hundred Years old, 'who had lost his Eye-sight and Memory; to sup-'ply which Defect, a pair of Spectacles were 'put on his Nose, two Candles held before his 'Eyes, and the Words sounded into his Ears, 'which he was to pronounce. From Church the 'Procession went to the *Czar's* Palace, where the

'Diverſion was continued. Many ſtrange Adventures and comical Accidents happen'd on their 'riding thro' the Streets on Sledges, too long to 'be related here.

'Thus much may ſuffice to ſhew, that the Czar, 'among all the heavy Cares of Government, knows 'how to ſet apart ſome Days for the Relaxation of 'his Mind, and how ingenious he is in the Con'trivance of thoſe Diverſions.'

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 74. *Monday, November* 21, 1726.

Ipſa quoque et cultu eſt et nomine fœmina virtus.
OVID.

IT was the Opinion of *Gorgias*, a Philoſopher of *Sicily*, *that not only the Face, but the Fame of a Woman ſhould be known to many*; for which Reaſon *Plutarch* ſays, 'The *Roman* Laws permitted Funeral Encomiums 'to be given as well to Women as to Men, and it is 'convenient that thoſe many worthy Things, both 'in public and private, which have been done by 'Women, ſhould be recorded, that they may be 'an Example to others.' The ſame Author tells us, that 'The Women of *Argos*, being divinely in'ſpir'd with a deſperate Reſolution, when their 'Country was ſpoil'd, and their City beſieg'd by '*Cleomenes*, King of the *Spartans*, took Arms un'der the Conduct of *Teleſſilla* the Poeteſs, and hav'ing fortified their City with a Counterſcarp, ſallied 'out upon *Cleomenes*, and having ſlain many of his 'Men,

'Men, beat him from their City, and diſpoſſeſs'd 'Demaratus, the other *Spartan* King, of the Fort 'Pamphyliack, which he had gotten before. The 'City being thus preſerv'd, the Women that were 'ſlain were buried in the Highway to *Argos*, and 'the reſt were allow'd to ſet up a Statue of *Mars*, 'as a Monument of their Bravery. In the Memory 'of this Action, they celebrate a Feaſt call'd *Hy-'briſtica*, wherein the Women are cloath'd with 'Mens Coats and Breeches, and the Men with Veils 'and Petticoats; and they have a Law, that new-'married Women ſhould wear Beards, when they 'firſt go to Bed with their Huſbands.'

Many more Examples might be brought from Antiquity, of illuſtrious Women who have excell'd in ſuperior Virtues; but as modern Inſtances are more likely to have a greater Influence upon the Minds of my Countrywomen, I ſhall beg leave to mention one, which is indeed foreign to them, yet worthy of their Notice, tho' in too high a Sphere to be Pattern for their Imitation in many Things. Every Body will know, that I mean the preſent Empreſs of *Ruſſia*; this Lady, from the loweſt Station of Life, was elevated to the imperial Crown, and ſince ſhe was call'd up to this Dignity by ſo great, ſo wiſe, and ſo glorious a Prince as the late *Czar* of *Muſcovy*, &c. it is natural to conclude, her proper Merit was the chief Motive of her Advancement. This Emperor, early conſcious that Virtue alone was the diſtinguiſhing Characteriſtic of Mankind, was reſolv'd not to wear the Crown before he had deſerv'd it, and therefore went thro' all the Forms of the Sciences both military and civil, in order to improve his Mind, and qualify him for Government; he was intent upon every Thing that could conduce to the Happineſs of his wide Empire; and as he on one Side ſubdu'd and extin-

guiſh'd thoſe barbarous and hereditary Cuſtoms which diſgrac'd his Country, ſo on the other hand, he introduc'd all thoſe uſeful Arts and Manners, which were neceſſary to civilize and improve his People; and knowing that a Prince who truſts the Adminiſtration of his Affairs wholly to Miniſters, very often ſees thro' falſe Optics, and is reproach'd through their Weakneſs and Corruption, therefore he determin'd to look into every Part of the State himſelf: In this Search he fix'd his Eyes on the preſent Empreſs, and as her ſuperior Merit could not eſcape his Diſcernment, ſo he thought it equal to his Wiſdom and Prudence to make her a Sharer of his Glory; happy in his Choice, that far from loſing any of its Brightneſs in the Participation, ſhe added to its Luſtre; it was by her Counſels and Conduct he eſcap'd, when by the Fury of his Conqueſts, and a Diſappointment from one of the tributary Princes, he was led into a Miſtake near *Pruth*, and his Troops were hemm'd in by the numerous Army of the *Turks*; I ſhall take the Liberty to relate the Story more at large.

After the fatal Battle of *Pultowa*, where the whole *Swediſh* Army was cut to Pieces, or made Priſoners by the Czar's Forces, and the King of *Sweden* himſelf was forc'd to fly into the Dominions of the Sultan for Protection, the Infidels broke the Peace of thirty Years which they had made with his *Czariſh* Majeſty, and ſent the *Tartar Can* to make an Irruption into his Dominions; his Czariſh Majeſty therefore took the Field in Perſon, and having been promiſed Subſiſtence for his Troops by a neighbouring Prince, he advanc'd to *Pruth* to meet the Army of the Enemy, which was compos'd of *Turks* and *Tartars*, and were above five times the Number of the *Ruſſians*. Here his Majeſty being diſappointed of his Proviſions by the aforeſaid Prince,

Prince, and in an Enemy's Country, was put to the greateſt Streights, and as there was no Poſſibility of reſiſting, without expoſing himſelf and his whole Army to the Fury of the Infidels, it was reſolv'd in a Council of War that his Majeſty with a ſelect Guard of five hundred Men, ſhould break through the Enemy's Forces or periſh in the Attempt. After this deſperate Reſolution was taken, the preſent Empreſs propos'd a Method, not only of preſerving his Majeſty, but the whole Army, without the Effuſion of Blood, (for it ſeems ſhe had given a Commiſſion to the ſame Perſon, whom ſhe had ſent to obtain Paſſes for herſelf and the other *Ruſſian* Ladies who had gone along with her) to ſound the Vizier about a Ranſom for conniving at the Eſcape of the whole Army. As ſoon as this Emiſſary return'd, he brought with him the Terms of this avaritious Miniſter, which amounted to a prodigious Sum, and was to be deliver'd on a certain prefix'd Hour of the next Day. This wiſe Princeſs ſummon'd all the Ladies together, as well as the Officers, and communicating to them her Project, ſhe produc'd all her Jewels, Plate and Money, and encourag'd the reſt by her great Example to part with every Thing that was valuable, for the Purchaſe of their Liberty; this was all carried next Day to the Tents of the Vizier, who acted like a Man of Honour in this Particular, and ſuffer'd the *Ruſſian* Army to march off unmoleſted. The bare Relation of this Story will raiſe in my Readers Mind an Idea of this Lady's Excellence, beyond any Deſcription which can be given by the moſt luxuriant Pen. Therefore I ſhall proceed to take notice of ſome illuſtrious Women *here* amongſt us, who in their ſeveral Spheres reflect a Dignity upon their Sex, and are to be regarded with the utmoſt Admiration.

I don't know whether upon this Occaſion I ſhould preſume to mention that *great Perſon*, whoſe royal Offspring will one time or other continue theſe Bleſſings to us which we enjoy, from their Anceſtors; but as her Situation is the higheſt, ſo are her Virtues the moſt eminent. Where is Piety more conſpicuous? where is conjugal Affection more viſible? where is maternal Tenderneſs more remarkable? where is Prudence more conſummate, or Friendſhip more agreeable and diſintereſted than in her? and indeed how can it be otherways, *where* Nature has been ſo indulgent, and *where* the Virtues and Graces have choſen their Reſidence?

And here I cannot without the greateſt Injuſtice be ſilent in the Praiſe of *Germanica*. This Lady, poſſeſs'd of a large Eſtate, looks upon herſelf only as a Steward for other People, whom the Frowns of Fortune, or the Diſaſters of Fate have overwhelm'd with Calamity; ſhe regards the Pomp and Magnificence of Life, as a Violation of that Juſtice ſhe owes to her Fellow-Creatures, and chuſes rather to ſee others happy by a Diſtribution of her Favours, than live in a uſeleſs Splendor, and a vain Shew of Grandeur; her ſeaſonable Charities, and munificent Bounties, are greater Ornaments in her Life, than the moſt ſumptuous Palaces, or moſt ſplendid Equipage; and her Ambition has but one View, which is, *to do good to all.*

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 75. *Friday, November* 25, 1726.

Ac juvenum ſeries teneris immiſta puellis
Ludit, et aſſidue prætia miſcat amor. TIB.

I WENT the other Day to viſit an old Acquaintance of mine. As ſoon as I enter'd the Parlour I found the whole Company in a Fit of Laughter, which they could hardly ſuppreſs upon my coming in amongſt them. My Friend, who is infinitely fond of his Children, did not care to check them in their innocent Mirth, but made an Apology by telling me, that to entertain ſome of his young Neighbours, they were got together at a Play call'd *Queſtions and Commands*; but finding my Preſence had put a Stop to their Diverſion, I threatned to take my leave if they did not proceed. I muſt confeſs, I could not help ſharing with my Friend in a great deal of Pleaſure in this little Entertainment, and his Hopes of the growing Wit of his Children, by their ſeveral Queſtions and Anſwers, and muſt think that from hence one may form a probable Conjecture of their Genius and Inclinations. It ſeems, *Harry*, the ſecond Son of this Gentleman, is a great Proficient in all theſe Sports, and by the Shrewdneſs of his Queſtions and the Difficulty of obeying his Commands, makes all the young Ladies incur certain Forfeitures, which can only be purchas'd back again by Kiſſes, which *Harry* always performs with a Smack as loud as the Crack of

of a Coach-Whip. As ſoon as this little Company had left the Room, my Friend was call'd out upon ſome Occaſion; in the mean time the good Lady his Wife, who is very talkative, entertain'd me with a great many Stories of the Tranſactions of this ſmall Fraternity, and aſk'd me, if I did not think her Son *Harry* would make a good Lawyer; but without ſtaying for an Anſwer, What do you think, (ſays ſhe) of *Bob?* ſee how grave he looks; indeed he always looks ſo; Don't you think he'll make a Judge? Tho' I am not very fond of talking, yet I don't care to be uſed in this Manner, therefore I got up and took my leave, telling her, I would wait on her ſome other Time when my Friend was more at leiſure. As ſoon as I was gone, I could not but reflect on the Oddneſs of this Lady's Behaviour and Expreſſions, which ſeem'd to imply, that to be a Judge a Man need not be a Lawyer.

A Huſband muſt have a vaſt Fund of Good-nature, who can ſeem eaſy at home, and bear ſuch a continu'd Clack of Impertinence. I am of the Opinion, there are a great many Men who are driven from their Houſes (and conſequently get the Reputation of bad Huſbands) by theſe ſuperfluous Clamours. How unlike this Conduct is that of *Aurelia*'s? This Lady has liv'd above twenty Years in a matrimonial State, and tho' ſhe has had two Huſbands, was never known to be at any time indifferent to any one of them: She thought it worth her while to ſtudy their Tempers, which when ſhe had diſcover'd, her Art grew into a Habit of pleaſing. They never thought themſelves ſo happy as when at Home, and ſhe never took ſo much Pleaſure as in their Company; but indeed they were Men of Senſe, and knew how to put a juſt Value upon the Complacency and Goodneſs of her,

her, who had ſo great an Intereſt in their Happineſs; their Paſſion for her grew into a Sort of Avarice, and they always thought they ſuſtain'd a Loſs in their Abſence from her. The ſame Principle that makes her amiable to her Huſband, renders her moſt agreeable to her Friends, of which ſhe has a great many; nor can ſhe have an Enemy but amongſt thoſe whom her Virtue reproaches. Her Converſation was made up of Affability, good Senſe and Good-nature, nor will ſhe countenance at any time the expoſing of a Character, till Fame has made it univerſally notorious: She often ſays, it is a very hard Matter to ſteer a right Courſe in this Road of Life; but ſhe owns, ſhe has been oftner deceiv'd by her good-natur'd Incredulity, than diſappointed by the Behaviour of thoſe, whoſe Conduct the World had ſpoken freely of. As nothing can be more admir'd than the Prudence of this Lady, ſo when any one would recommend a Thing in the œconomical Part of Life, they inſtance the Example of *Aurelia*. I ſhall conclude this Paper with the following Letter, which was brought by a Girl in a Straw-Hat.

SIR,

I AM very glad you give us this Opportunity of relating our Concern to the Public: By this Means I hope my Lover may ſee, what I could never venture to tell him; for you muſt know, Sir, that he has courted me a great while, and tho' he is independant of any one, and I never did any thing in my Life to vex him, yet as far as I ſee, I am not a bit nearer Matrimony now than I was the firſt Moment I ſaw him. He often tells me I am very pretty, and ſwears he loves me; I cant imagine what he would have; I ſometimes think he fancies he's oblig'd to ſerve a ſeven Years Apprentice-

ſhip

ſhip before he ſets up for a Huſband; ſurely Nobody elſe does ſo. If you pleaſe to let him know, I am ready to marry him whenever he pleaſes. My Friends adviſe me to ſee him no more; but I don't care to do that becauſe I fancy every Day he'll aſk me the Queſtion. Indeed, I don't care to ſtay any longer, ſo I deſire, ſince he wont ſpeak of it to me himſelf, he would write down his Thoughts to you, which if you would be ſo good to make public, you will oblige your

Humble Servant,

Kitty Shoeſtring.

Becauſe you may be ſure, his Name is *Zachery Doubtful.*

I think Mrs. *Kitty Shoeſtring*'s Caſe is very particular, and I ſhall take care to inform her of any Thing I hear for her Advantage.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 76. *Monday, November* 28, 1726.

Ibam forte viâ ſacrâ; ſicut meus eſt mos,
Neſcio quid meditans nugarum, & totus in illis:
Accurrit quidam notus mihi nomine tantum,
Arreptâque manu, quid agis, dulciſſime rerum?
Suaviter, ut nunc eſt, inquam, & cupio omnia, quæ vis.
Quum aſſectaretur, nunquid vis? Occupo: at ille
Noris nos, inquit, docti ſumus, &c. HOR. Sat. 9.

MY Friend the Doctor, invited me the other Day to dine with him; being my near Neighbour, and knowing my Impatience in the Interval, of expecting and ſerving up Dinner, he always ſends for me, when

when the Meat is laying upon the Table. I had no ſooner ſate down, but the Gentleman next me hearing my Name, deſired to be preſented to me; when he had made his Compliment, the Doctor, who endeavours to make every Body as eaſy as if they were at their own Home, bid us help ourſelves, and fell on with his uſual good Appetite; but my new Acquaintance, being a bold Speaker, with an uncommon Gallantry, laid aſide all Regard to himſelf, and entertain'd us the whole Dinner Time with ſuch a Rapidity of Diſcourſe upon all Manner of Subjects, with ſo much Facility, and ſo equal a Knowledge, that it was impoſſible to hear him without Aſtoniſhment; and indeed, it is wonderful to think, how ſo many Words could, in ſo ſhort a Time, be brought together in any Method, with ſo little Meaning; this Man's Faculty has clear'd up a Point of Philoſophy, I had ſome Doubt of before; for, if *nothing* is capable of ſo many Diviſions, what plainer Proofs need we have than that *Matter*, which is ſomething, may be infinitely diviſible?

I have often wonder'd at this Difference amongſt Men, and have puzzled myſelf a hundred Times to find out the Reaſon of it; at laſt, the Doctor ſatisfied my Curioſity in the mechanical Account which he gave me; you muſt obſerve (ſays he) that as theſe People have a great Quantity of Spirits, ſo they have little or no Judgment, their Diſcourſe is meerly the Effect of a Train of Ideas, or rather Words, which flow from the Imagination without any Relation to Things at all; and therefore, Reaſon not concerning herſelf to compare or divide their Ideas, they ruſh out, like a run away Horſe, and ſweep over

over Hedge and Ditch without any Deſign, and ſtop only when they can go no farther.

The *French* Nation in General, are affected with this Redundancy of Spirits, inſomuch that amongſt them, a Man looks like a Fool, if he does not talk in *Chorus* with the reſt of the Company. Some Females too of our own Country, are eminent in this Particluar; I have a ſhe Relation, who comes to me now and then about Buſineſs, that is excellent this Way; this Woman, with her good Will, would never have done, ſhe thinks ſhe never can explain Matters enough to you, and for fear you ſhould forget, repeats the ſame Thing over to you a hundred Times; nor would ſhe leave you then, if it were not to talk the Matter over to ſome Body elſe. The firſt Time ſhe did me the Honour of a Viſit, after ſhe had concluded, (as I thought) her long Story, I waited on her to the Door, ſuppoſing I had nothing elſe to do, but make my Bow, and come back again; but when ſhe got me here, ſhe made me the greateſt Example of human Patience; for imagining ſtill, that ſhe had left ſomething unſaid, ſhe began the whole Affair over again, and kept me Priſoner above half an Hour, in the coldeſt Day I ever felt in my Life; at laſt, I was forced to leave her abruptly. Since that Time, I uſe her without any Ceremony at all, nor does ſhe ſeem to expect it, and for the future, I have reſolved not to ſtir beyond a certain Board, upon any Account whoſoever; but that my female Readers may not imagine I have any particular Pique to them, I ſhall conclude this Paper, with a ſhort Account of a Story-Teller I once ſaw at a Coffee-Houſe; it happened to be early before the Company uſually meet, that this Gentleman came, and having no other Bubble, he

arreſted

arreſted the Attention of a certain Gentleman, who was then at Breakfaſt; let the Subject be what it will, it is this old Gentleman's Faculty to trace it up to its Original, and by ſeveral collateral Incidents, to ſpin a Diſcourſe to what Length he pleaſes; he had got a great Way into his Oration before I took any Notice of him, being taken up in reading one of the News Papers, but at laſt caſting my Eye upon them, I obſerv'd his Auditor very Impatient and eager to throw in a Word, which the other managed ſo well as never to give him the leaſt Opportunity, but went on with an eaſy Manner, that did not imply he would give over very ſoon; it happened very luckily for the Gentleman, that his Servant came in that Inſtant, and whiſper'd ſomething in his Ear; he had Preſence of Mind to lay hold of the Opportunity, and went out of the Room; in a little while after, the old Gentleman finiſh'd his Period by himſelf, and follow'd him.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 77. *Friday, December* 2, 1726.

Fama malum, quo non aliud velocius ullum
Mobilitate viget, viresque acquirit eundo. VIRG.

THE Riſe and Fall of the *money'd Property* of this Kingdom, or more ſtrictly ſpeaking what we call the *Stocks*, depends upon many Cauſes; either from the Neceſſities of the Government (let the Occa-

ſion be what it will) to borrow large Sums of the People, who from the Temptations of a greater Intereſt in a new Fund, ſell great Quantities of old Stock, which from the Difficulty of finding Purchaſers, brings down the Value of it, or from the Intelligence we have from Abroad, of ſuch Events as may either promiſe us a laſting Tranquillity, or endanger even the Security of our Funds; as for the Riſe and Fall that is now and then occaſioned by Combinations of the People, in Times of Peace or War, who buy or ſell great Quantities in order to enrich themſelves with the Difference, the Operation of this Artifice is ſo ſoon over, and ſo little material, that it is hardly worth mentioning. I ſhall only take Notice here, of the Cauſes of the Fall of our Stocks, or as ſome call it, of our publick Credit, as it ariſes from the Apprehenſions Mankind has of the evil Conſequences of War; and by that Means the Riſque they conceive, they may run even of their Principal; but I ſhall obſerve firſt one Thing, that as in Times of a general Tranquillity, the Avarice of receiving an Intereſt puſhes all Sorts of People into the publick Funds, with their whole money'd Eſtate, ſo that they only leave themſelves as much as is neceſſary for carrying on the ordinary Buſineſs of Life, till next half yearly Dividend; and this by Degrees raiſes the Stocks above their Value; ſo on the Contrary, when any Occaſion makes them retire, if we could but ſuppoſe every Proprietor of the publick Debts ſhould only deſire to ſee the fifth Part of his Eſtate in ready Money, this will of Neceſſity cauſe ſuch a ſinking of Credit, as muſt alarm the Nation, and make them think their Condition is worſe than really it is, and the Reaſon of this is very obvious, becauſe, that in Times of Peace and Satisfaction,

Satisfaction, a little more than the Intereſt of the Funds (which is about 3,000,000) is ſufficient for their Circulation; whereas in the other Caſe, ſuppoſing a fifth Part of the Stocks ſold out, this cauſes an immediate Demand for above ten Millions, and ſo much Money ſunk out of a Capital of fifteen Millions (which may be near the Sum this Kingdom is in Poſſeſſion of) muſt of Neceſſity make a great Scarcity of Specie in Currency, and conſequently depreciate the publick Securities below their real Value: And, if we carry this Thought a little farther, and could ſuppoſe ourſelves in ſuch a Situation, as that all the Proprietors of Stocks, ſhould think the Funds deſperate, in ſuch a Juncture it would not be ſurprizing to ſee them ſold under 10 *per* Cent. but as this is a Caſe which I hope will never happen, ſo I ſhall only ſpeak of them in the preſent Situation, in regard to their Variation from Intelligence Abroad. And here I muſt take Notice of one Thing, which few People (if any) have attended to; and that is, as about a ninth Part of our Funds are the Property of Foreigners; if they only are to have the Advantage of Intelligence, and an *Engliſhman* ſhall be look'd upon as diſaffected to the Government, becauſe he ſells his Stock in Time of Diſtruſt, at leaſt, if not Danger; the Policy of ſuch a Reſtraint, will be to give Strangers all the Advantage of our Calamities; and they will be ſure to know what is doing Abroad, and won't be aſham'd to make Uſe of the Opportunity; and I will leave it to any thinking Man, to conſider, that if no more than even ſix Millions (the foreign Proportion) of real Stocks was ſold out in a little Time, how it would operate upon the reſt? I believe, every Body will allow, that it is the Belief, which the

Purchaſer of Stocks has, that he can at any Time realize this Principal, that is one Cauſe which makes their Price above *Par*, and every Individual flatters himſelf with this Notion, and for that Reaſon, he thinks it his Right to ſell when, and at what Price he will; this Liberty is the very Eſſence of Credit, and is the *Cauſa ſine quâ non*, that our publick Securities have ever riſen beyond their real Value. Therefore any Attempt to diſguiſe foreign Intelligence, can only terminate in the Deſtruction of the real Friends of the Government, as any Reſtraint or Diſcouragement upon the Liberty of the Proprietors of the publick Funds, muſt ſtrike at the very Foundations of Credit.

As Liberty and Certainty are the Hinges of all Money Negotiations, ſo Clearneſs and Punctuality are the *Baſis* and Support of national Credit, a Fund only ariſing from the probable Expence of the People, or the precarious Adventures of a certain Branch of Trade, would hardly have been thought ſufficient to lend great Sums upon; therefore, the Wiſdom of *Parliaments* have added Clauſes to make good any Deficiences which might happen, and aſſign'd half yearly Payments of the Intereſt, to obviate all poſſible Doubts in in Relation both to the Certainty of the Intereſt, and the Times of the Payments of it; the ſame Wiſdom, by applying the Surpluſſes of ſeveral Funds to the Diſcharge of the Principal, has made it evident to the meaneſt Capacity, that in a certain Term of Years, if theſe Surpluſſes are apply'd to that Uſe, and produce any certain Sum, the Principal may be paid of, in more or leſs Time, in Proportion to the *Quantum* of ſuch a Produce; I ſhall not take upon me to ſay, that if in the Year 1727, the ſinking Fund ſhould

ariſe

ariſe to one Million, or twelve hundred thouſand Pounds, that therefore, it ſhould continue in the ſame Proportion for any Number of Years, and pay off 50 Millions in the firſt Conſideration in 28 Years, or 53 Millions in the laſt Calculation in leſs than 26 Years, becauſe that theſe Funds ariſing out of Expence, the very Nature of theſe Payments leſſen the Intereſt of every Proprietor on his firſt Capital, by which Means he is diſabled to make the ſame Expence, ſo that theſe Funds will of Courſe fall ſhort in a little Time of what they firſt produced; and conſequently, a greater Number of Years will be required to diſcharge the publick Debts, than in either of the above ſtated Accounts, although they begin in the Manner deſcrib'd; but I think it is ſufficient, that upon the whole, there is the greateſt Certainty, that in a few Years the Surpluſſes of the Funds applied to the Payment of the publick Debts, may diſcharge them; and becauſe the Certainty of this Fact is ſo neceſſary to be known, in order to raiſe in the Minds of the People a greater Confidence of their Security; therefore, any Attempt to diſguiſe this Matter by falſe Repreſentations of the State of our Debts, or the Application that has been made for paying them off, is ſo far from doing the Government any Service, that on the Contrary, it muſt be highly injurious, and make Men ſuſpect, that if there is any Countenance given to ſuch Informations, our Affairs are not in ſuch a Situation, as can bear that clear Light, which is neceſſary for the Support of publick Credit.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 78. *Monday, December* 5, 1726.

Prima peregrinos obſcœna pecunia mores
Intulit, & turpi fregerunt ſæcula luxu
Divitiæ molles. JUV.

MY Antiquity Profeſſor having taken a great deal of Pains in ſearching into the Hiſtory and Records of *China*, has ſent me the following Account, which I hope may not be unacceptable to the Publick.

Xunchi, King of *Niuche*, a ſmall Province of *Tartary*, having defeated the *Chineſe* Army, made himſelf Maſter of the Imperial City of *Pekin*, and having ſurpriſed the Emperor in his Palace, this magnanimous Prince refuſing to ſubmit to the Conqueror, firſt killed his Daughter, and then ſtabb'd himſelf, recommending his People to the Care and Mercy of the Uſurper; but *Uſanguay*, General to the late King, coming againſt the *Tartar* with a large Army, to prevent the Effuſion of Blood, and the uncertain Event of Battle, they both conſented to a Partition of the *Chineſe* Empire; the new King *Xunchi*, in order to ſecure himſelf in quiet Poſſeſſion of his Conqueſts, thought it adviſeable to advance the moſt Popular of the Grandees to be *Viceroys* and *Governors* over the ſeveral Provinces under his Command, and having at laſt ſubdued the whole Empire, that he might ſit the eaſier upon his Throne, he determined

mined to govern them by their own Laws, and order'd his firſt *Miniſter* to examine the Claims of all ſuch, who upon any Account pretended to Offices and Employments under the Government, which were very numerous and profitable; accordingly an Edict was publiſhed, that within thirty Days, every Perſon was to ſend in Writing their ſeveral Pretenſions, with their Reaſons for their Demands, theſe were all compil'd together in fifty Volumes, and carefully preſerved for the Uſe of the *Emperor*, who propoſed from hence to make ſome uſeful Obſervations, in governing his People.

The firſt Petition was ſigned by ſeveral Hands, and came from the *Eunuchs*, who were the Favourites and Miniſters of the late *Emperor*, ſetting forth, that whereas they had the Honour to be of the Cabinet-Council to his late Majeſty, and had adviſed him to exerciſe the *regal Authority* in ſuch a Manner as was moſt agreeable to their own Will, whereby the Liberties of the People were inſulted, their Properties waſted, and their Laws render'd uſeleſs, and only of Force when it was thought convenient to his late Majeſty's Pleaſure, the Conſequence of which, was the ſure Alienation of their Affections from the Crown, and that the People might be in a more deſperate and wretched State; thoſe Patriots who ſtood up in Defence of their Rights, and oppoſed the prevailing Counſels of thoſe in Power, were turned out of their Employments, inſulted, or otherways ill uſed, and all this done at the Inſtance, and by the Advice of the Petitioners which begot ſo much ill Blood at laſt, that it broke out into Wars and Rebellion, and made an eaſy Way for his preſent Majeſty's Admiſſion, they therefore hope, that his Majeſty in Con-

ſideration of their Services, will provide for them in Proportion to their Merits, and equal to the high Stations they enjoyed in the Reign of his Predeceſſor.

Sign'd, T. W. X. Y. Z. *&c.*

His Majeſty's Anſwer is annexed to every Petition, which was thought proper to be the Subject of his Conſideration ; which, upon this Occaſion was, *That their overgrown Eſtates which were got by Rapine and Corruption, ſhould be confiſcated to the Uſe of the Publick ; and that, as he hoped by his own Example, to make Juſtice and Honeſty faſhionable, ſo he thought it would be the greateſt Puniſhment he could inflict on theſe Miſcreants to let them live, and groan under the Load of their own Crimes, and become the publick Spectacles of Shame and Reproach.*

The ſecond was from ſome Officers in the Revenue, ſhewing, that they had with a great deal of Diligence and Fidelity executed their Charge for ſeveral Years, and notwithſtanding the Smallneſs of their Salaries, they had liv'd at a great Expence with Honour and Reputation, therefore they hop'd that his Majeſty out of his great Goodneſs would continue them in their ſeveral Employments, where they had ſhewn themſelves of ſo eminent a Capacity for Buſineſs, as to be able to live ſuitable to the Dignity of their Occupations, without putting any additional Charge to the Crown.

Upon Enquiry into theſe Mens Characters it was found, *that in a few Years they had got immenſe Riches, and no warrantable Means appearing, it was natural to ſuppoſe that by ſome ſiniſter Practices, theſe great Eſtates muſt have been raiſed, by the Oppreſſion of the People.*

Order'd to be caſhier'd

Another

Another was from a Lawyer, ſetting forth, that for the Space of eleven Years ſince his firſt coming to the Bar, he never had loſt one Cauſe, and as ſo much Succeſs muſt of Neceſſity imply great Skill and Knowledge in the Laws of the Country, he hoped that his Majeſty would not only out of his great Goodneſs to him, but alſo out of his paternal Regard to his People, appoint him to be Chief-Juſtice in one of his Courts of Judicature.

'Tis under-written, that upon Enquiry into this Man's Character, they found him to be a vain, ignorant Fellow, and one that never had a ſingle Client.

A fourth was a very ridiculous one, being a recommendatory Letter from a Gentleman, of himſelf, to the Miniſter, in this Manner.

SIR,

I Underſtand that there is a Proclamation whiſper'd about, requiring every Body to ſtate an Account of their Pretenſions to his Majeſty's Favour: Now, Sir, hearing that you are a very good Man, I have all the Hopes imaginable, and claim ſomething very conſiderable under your Goodneſs, not having in the whole Courſe of my Life done any one Thing which can be remember'd to my Advantage, therefore I have the greater Confidence; for, Sir, what is yielded to Merit is only an Acquittance of an Obligation, and a Reproach to you if you refuſe it; and I don't apprehend that there is the leaſt Mention of paying off Debts in all this Affair, ſo that as it ſeems to me to be a pure Act of Generoſity, and an uncommon Strain of Benevolence; on whom can it be better plac'd than on him who has moſt Occaſion for it; and who ſhould this be, but he, who has not any one Thing in the World to recommend him any where elſe; had it not been for ſo extra-

extraordinary an Act of Grace, I never could have tasted of his Majesty's Bounty, so that, Sir, I hope I shall be provided for in Proportion to my Deficiency.

P. S. Perhaps this negative Way of Recommendation may not consist formally with the Method of conferring Employments, therefore it will be equal to me, if you order me a good Sum of Money.

The next is a sort of a Memorial from a Soldier, where he says, that being a General-Officer in the late Emperor's Service, he cannot deny (and hopes that his Majesty will not have the worse Opinion of him) but that he serv'd his late Master to the very last Drop of his Blood, but that Matter being now quite over, he promises to shew the same Fidelity to the present King, if he will please to honour him with his Commands.

This Person being known to be a Man of Courage and Honesty, but disabled for Service, the Emperor order'd him to be made Governor of one of his Hospitals.

Another was from a Physician, importing, that by his great Learning and long Experience in Medicine, all Distempers were now become alike to him, and that he never fail'd of rooting out the most dangerous Disease, let it be of never so long a Continuance, as he had already practis'd in many Instances: For these Reasons he hoped he might deserve the Honour of being first Physician to his Majesty.

Upon Examination of this Man's Pretensions, it did not appear that the Doctor could produce one living Witness of his Success.

Rejected.

I shall give a farther Account of this Matter in another Paper, there being something very remarkable

able among the Female Petitions, I hope the Ladies will excuſe me for mentioning them, and not imagine that while I am relating the Affairs of *China*, I can be thought to make any Reflection on the Manners of *England*.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 79. *Friday, December* 9, 1726.

Peregrina ignotaque nobis
Ad ſcelus atque nefas, quodcumque eſt purpura ducit.
JUV.

MOnſieur *Toupet*, one of my *Envoys* or rather Spies in private Families and Aſſemblies, has ſent me word that there is the greateſt Expectation in all thoſe Places, to ſee in what Manner the *Chineſe* Ladies addreſs'd themſelves to their new Emperor, and what the Subſtance of their Petitions can be, upon which they pretend to his Majeſty's Favour; and their Curioſity is the greater, becauſe, they ſay, by all Pourtraits and Repreſentations they have ſeen of them *here*, they are ſure it cannot be upon the Accounts of their Beauty. I ſhall therefore, in Compliance to my pretty inquiſitive Countrywomen, poſtpone all other Conſiderations, and tell them, (and I hope they will forgive me) that there is no univerſal Standard for Beauty: But in ſeveral Parts of the World the Inhabitants ſeem to entertain Notions directly oppoſite to one another in reſpect to this amiable Perfection. It would be a hard Matter to bring an *European* Woman to confeſs the Charms

Charms and Graces of the Ladies of *Afric*, and 'tis poſſible that the moſt celebrated Toaſt of *London* or *Fez* might live out the Age even of her own Opinion of herſelf, without ever being taken notice of at *Pekin*.

I ſhall not pretend to diſcover the Motives that determin'd the *Chineſe* Ladies to apply themſelves to the *Tartarian* Conqueror for his Favour, but deſign only to give the Extracts of the ſeveral Petitions which were taken out of thoſe Volumes before-mentioned, and which my *Antiquity-Profeſſor* has with a great deal of Care and Labour tranſlated for the Benefit of ſuch who may be deſirous to know the Tranſactions of thoſe diſtant Countries.

The firſt Petition is from a Woman of Quality, ſetting forth, that ſhe is the Relict of the late *Mandarin* of *Xintum*, who for many Years paſt has been honour'd with the chief Employments in the Empire, but at preſent her Circumſtances being greatly reduc'd by repeated Loſſes at Play which ſhe had ſuſtain'd while ſhe attended the Court of the late royal Family, and his preſent Majeſty coming to the Throne juſt as her Luck was turning, prevented her from winning back again thoſe Sums ſhe had loſt before, which were very conſiderable: She hop'd his Majeſty would out of his great Goodneſs order her ſuch a Penſion as might enable her to live with Honour and Reputation, and proportionable to her Quality.

Upon examining into the Merits of this Petition it appear'd, that her Huſband had at his Death left her two hundred thouſand Crowns, which ſhe had waſted in a few Years; but however, his Majeſty out of Compaſſion to her Circumſtances, order'd that ſhe ſhould receive out of the Treaſury, an hundred Crowns every Week for her Subſiſtance.

The

The next Petition was from a Lady, declaring, that ſhe being what the World calls tolerably handſome; at the Time that his preſent Majeſty invaded theſe Dominions, ſhe by the Power of her Beauty prevented her Lover from arming againſt his Majeſty, which ſhe was ſure muſt have been of the greateſt Importance to his Majeſty's Affairs, and facilitated his Conqueſts, her Lover having often told her, that the late King's Generals knew nothing at all of military Affairs, and that if he had been himſelf at the Head of the Army, he would have maintain'd this Empire againſt the whole World, having in the firſt Battle that he ever was in kill'd twenty Men with his own Hand; a Piece of Bravery the General and the other Officers would not forgive him, it being more than any one of them ever pretended to do, and an everlaſting Reproach upon their Conduct; ſhe hop'd therefore his Majeſty would look upon her as an Object of his Favour.

The Third ſeems to be from a Perſon of very great Quality, and is addreſs'd to the King himſelf.

To the moſt Sublime and moſt Potent the Emperor of China *and* Tartary.

SIR,

HAving the Honour of being a Native in your Majeſty's hereditary Dominions, it was my Fate to fall under the *Chineſe* Captivity; but the Divinity of my Charms protected me from the Inſolence of the Conqueror, and *Uſanguay*, who then commanded the Enemy's Army, obey'd my Commands, and brought me to the Emperor, who no ſooner ſaw me, but he yielded the Empire to me which he could keep no longer from me; all Offices

fices and Employments were beſtow'd by my Direction; it was by my Counſel and Command that the Commerce of *Tartary* was diſturb'd, for I wanted a Pretence of going to War, and enlarging my Dominions, having no Notion that Sovereign Power ſhould be bounded by any Limits; when by the Cowardice and Treachery of my Troops you ſurpriz'd our Capital, I fled to *Nankin*, where I lived till the Diviſion of the Empire was agreed upon between your Majeſty and *Uſanguay*. This Man thought it his greateſt Happineſs that he ſav'd a large Kingdom ſtill for me, and the Deſire of Rule made me ſubmit to the hard Conditions of the Partition. I had not long enjoy'd this broken Dominion but your Majeſty invaded our Provinces, and in a little Time poſſeſſed yourſelf of the whole *Chineſe* Empire. I ſhall not pretend to diſpute the Right which Conqueſt gives you over Slaves and Vaſſals; but I am not afraid to tell you, Sir, that *Xunchi* is invincible, and cannot ſubmit to the mean Terms of Dependance: If your Majeſty ſhould command me to Court, upon no other View can I obey, but to be a Partner in the Government; imagine not that I will yield my Beauty at ſo low a Price as that of a Crown, unleſs I alſo have a Share in that Power which belongs to it. *A Soul like mine cannot be ſatisfied with being admir'd, unleſs it does ſomething worthy of Admiration.*

I am,

XUNCHI.

It ſeems the Lady was the moſt belov'd of the late Emperor's Seraglio, and by her Intrigues contributed a great deal to his Misfortunes. She was of ſo excellent a Beauty, that the new King was inform'd that it was not ſafe to behold her, therefore he

he order'd her to be confin'd in a Palace in the Province of *Quamſi*.

Another was from a Lady, alledging, that for her Part ſhe always hated the late Government, for ſhe never could get any Thing by it, and was glad of his Majeſty's Succeſs, and hop'd there would be no more Wars, for the naſty Wars had kill'd her a couple of Lovers, which was the greater Diſappointment to her, becauſe they were the only two ſhe ever had in her Life; and what makes her more an Object of his Majeſty's Compaſſion is, that ſhe has in many Inſtances, which ſhe is ready to prove if call'd upon, made many Attempts to contract an Alliance with ſeveral of his Majeſty's Countrymen, which is a certain Proof of her Zeal and Devotion to his Majeſty's Service; therefore ſhe humbly beſeeches his Majeſty, to order ſuch Proviſion to be made for her, as may bear ſome Proportion to her Loſſes and her craving Circumſtances.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 80. *Monday, December* 12, 1726.

Quæ mare compeſcant cauſæ, quid temperet annum,
Stellæ ſponte ſua, juſſæve vagentur, et errent:
Quid premat obſcuram lunæ, quid proferat orbem,
Quid velit, et poſſit rerum concordia diſcors.

WHEN a Man contemplates the Works of the Creation, his Mind is naturally led to inquire, why and from whence this wonderful Syſtem is contriv'd. He ſees himſelf plac'd on the Earth, ſurrounded with Woods,

Woods, Mountains, Seas or Rivers; he beholds innumerable Animals of different Sizes and Shapes around him, ſome ſtalking o'er the Plains, ſome climbing the Hills, whilſt others wing the Air, or dive in the Flood; *here* the ſpreading Oaks and Elms afford a venerable and uſeful Shade, and *there* the Fruit-Trees bend under a Weight of Delicacies and invite the Appetite: Above, the Sun appears with the moſt dazzling Splendor, and when he leaves us, his ſpreading Glories are reflected again by the Moon and the reſt of the Planets: Beſides thoſe innumerable Springs of Light, the fix'd Stars, which illuminate that vaſt Region, and chaſe away the Horrors of the Night, muſt naturally raiſe in his Mind the greateſt Aſtoniſhment. When a Man looks down into himſelf, and conſiders the Aptitude of the Parts of his Body for the Buſineſs of Life, the wonderful Contrivance of thoſe Organs and Veſſels in which the Blood and animal Spirits are carried about; how Motion is produc'd by meer Volition; how the Ideas of Things are lock'd up in the Memory (as it were in a Cheſt) which is open'd again as we have Occaſion, and all this perform'd by the Power of Thought. Theſe Objects and theſe Reflections, I ſay, muſt of Neceſſity make a Man confeſs that they were produc'd by ſome intelligent and wiſe Being, and not the Effects of mere Chance.

The very Idea we have of Production, ſuppoſes an *efficient Cauſe* able to produce; the Univerſe then muſt have been produc'd by an *efficient Cauſe*, and it is juſt as reaſonable to the Mind to ſtop here, as to aſcend higher into the Series of Cauſes; we muſt reſt ſomewhere, if we would underſtand one another; we can have no Idea of infinite Progreſſion of Cauſes, we muſt at laſt ſettle upon one Point, the

the Cauſe of all Things, which is God. But to conſider this Propoſition in another Manner.

Body, or Matter, is either eternal or created; if eternal, then it muſt exiſt of itſelf, and conſequently is independant of any thing elſe; and then there muſt be two eternal Principles, *viz.* Matter and Motion; for Matter alone could not move of itſelf: If it is created, by whom can it be created, but by an Almighty Power? Again, ſuppoſing Matter eternal; either it muſt be in Motion or in Reſt: If in Reſt, who could give it Motion but God? If in Motion, then Motion muſt be eſſential to Matter; it receiving Motion from no external Cauſe, it muſt have it from itſelf, and conſequently could not be conſider'd without it, no more than without Extenſion. This is ſo abſurd that it needs no Confutation. 'Tis then very evident, that either to create Matter, or when created, to give it a continued Motion, muſt be the Operation of that divine Power which we call God; for it would be ridiculous to imagine that the Power of Creation would be given to a ſubordinate Being; or ſhould we ſuppoſe it, we could not go higher; it muſt be the firſt *Cauſe* which can communicate ſuch a Power. Thus from the Evidence of Reaſon, we can demonſtrate that there muſt be a firſt efficient Cauſe, independant, eternal, as exiſting from himſelf alone, and conſequently he muſt always have been, and ſhall for ever continue, and this efficient Cauſe is that we call God.

My Reader will now forgive me if I relate to him the Opinions of ſome of the ancient Philoſophers, in reſpect to the Deity. *Zoroaſtres*, whom ſome affirm to have lived ſix thouſand Years before the Death of *Plato*, (which Account, tho' fabulous, yet all agree, his Philoſophy was of the greateſt Antiquity,) divided Being into three Orders, *viz.*

Eternal, or ſuch as neither had Beginning, nor ſhall have an End: Infinite, which had a Beginning, and ſhall continue without End: The third is that which had a Beginning, and ſhall have an End. But then it was his Opinion that there were three Gods; one, the Author of Good, which he call'd *Horomazes*; another, the Cauſe of Evil, which he nam'd *Arimanius*; a third, between theſe two, which he call'd *Mithra*; from whence the *Perſians* call'd an Interceſſor or Mediator, *Mithra*. The firſt (they ſay) ſprung from the pureſt Light; the ſecond was the Offspring of Darkneſs, and are at continual War with one another. *Thales*, one of the moſt ancient *Greek* Philoſophers, believ'd that there was one uncreated Being, before all Things, but yet he, *Anaximander*, and *Anaximenes*, all agreed in this, that the Principles of all Things conſiſted in *ſimilar* Parts; that Things ſprung up without the Aſſiſtance of God, purely by the Force of Nature. *Anaxagoras*, *Ariſtotle*, and the *Stoicks* maintain, that God created the World by a natural Neceſſity, and not of his own free Motion. *Epicurus* and *Democritus* were of an Opinion, that the Univerſe was made by the fortuitous Concourſe of Atoms, which were indiviſible, eternal Bodies, moving perpetually in an infinite Space. *Cicero* gives this Account of *Pythagoras*, that he believ'd God to be the Soul of the World, and that the Souls of Men were Part of his divine Eſſence. *Plato*, in his latter Years, aſſerted, that this World was not govern'd by one Spirit alone, but that there were many, a Good and Evil, and a third, as it were, join'd or adhering to them.

All theſe Opinions, however various, demonſtrate, that wiſe Men in all Ages, have acknowledg'd a Deity, or eternal Principles which were the Cauſe of all Things: And had thoſe great Men

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the Advantages of reveal'd Religion, they would all undoubtedly have ſaid the ſame Thing; that there was *one* Cauſe of all Things, an eternal, omnipotent, omniſcient, perfect Being, God himſelf; the Fountain of Life and Motion, infinitely good, infinitely juſt, and infinitely merciful, which Attributes muſt be eſſential to him, tho' to our finite Capacities, ſome of them may ſeem incompatible.

I ſhall conclude this Paper with ſome Lines of *Milton* upon *Adam*'s Surpriſe, when he was firſt ſenſible of his Exiſtence.

——*Thou Sun fair Light,*
And thou enlighten'd Earth ſo freſh and gay;
Ye Hills and Dales, ye Rivers, Woods and Plains;
And ye that live and move fair Creatures tell,
Tell if ye ſaw, how came I thus, how here?
Not of my ſelf; by ſome great Maker then,
In Goodneſs and in Power pre-eminent:
Tell me how may I know him, how adore;
From whom I have, that thus I move and live,
And feel that I am happier than I know.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 81. *Monday, December* 16, 1726.

Non temere, nec fortuito ſati eſt creati ſumus, ſed profecto fuit quædam vis, quæ generi conſuleret humano; nec id gignerit aut aleret, quod cum exantlaviſſet omnes labores, tum incideret in mortis malum ſempiternum; portum potius paratum nobis et perfugium putemus. Cic. Tuſcul. Quæſt.

THE Nature and Duration of a human Soul has employ'd the Thoughts and the Pens of the wiſeſt Men in all Ages, as being a Matter of the greateſt Concern they can poſſible have in this World. Health, Wiſdom, Riches, Power, Honour, and Glory are precarious and tranſitory Enjoyments, and can only ſerve to fill up the ſhort Space of this Life; but the Idea of Immortality leads the Mind to an Expectation of an exquiſite and endleſs Bliſs hereafter, or makes it fear thoſe Horrors which are inſupportable even to the Imagination itſelf, and are aggravated with this tremendous Circumſtance, that they are to be *eternal.*

Drexellius, in his Deſcription of the Condition of the Miſerable in a future State, has a Thought ſomething like this; that were all the Sands of the Sea collected in a Glaſs, and only one Grain to fall through every thouſand Years, and the Period of their Torments was to be, when this was over, ſtill they would have an End: But alas! even after this amazing Progreſs of Ages, they are where they were,

were, Eternity flies before them, and Time itſelf is ſwallow'd up in this unfathomable *Abyſs*. This is the State of an unhappy Soul, as it is made known to us from reveal'd Religion.

But the Notion of the Immortality of the Soul, is as ancient as any Records we have of Philoſophy; the *Chaldeans*, *Plato*, and *Phythagoras* were of this Opinion; *Pſellus* in his Account of the *Chaldean* Erudition, deſcribes the Soul to be an immaterial and incorporeal Fire, pure, and unmixt, and diſtinct from Body, as alſo immortal; and *Pletho* in the remarkable Sayings of *Zoroaſtres*, ſays, that after the Soul has left its heavenly Habitation, and taken Poſſeſſion of a Body; when it has diſcharg'd its Office well there, it goes back again to the ſame Place, where it was before; but if ill, it is confin'd below ſo long as bears ſome Proportion to its Demerit.

Themiſtius, *Averroes*, and others maintain'd, that there were two Souls belonging to every Man, one corruptible and peculiar to him, the other eternal, the ſame, and common to all. *Ariſtotle*, and abundance of his Followers were of the Opinion, that the Underſtanding, or the Souls of all Men was one, and the ſame Subſtance.

Some again, believ'd the Soul to be corporeal, as *Epicurus*, *Lucretius*, nay, *Tertullian* and others of the ancient *Fathers*.

If we indeed examine the Properties of Bodies, as it appears to us, we ſhall not find one Quality in it, which can properly be applied to the Soul; the Properties of *Body* are deſcribed to be Extention, Solidity, Diviſibility, (if this laſt may be eſteem'd eſſential to it) but the Properties of the *Mind*, are to perceive, to underſtand, to will, to judge, and to reaſon; from this Way of thinking, it is impoſſible not to ſuppoſe it ſomething different from

Body, which for want of a more intelligible Name, we call *Spirit*; but ſince the Ideas of *Body* and Spirit are ſo different, one would wonder there ſhould be that Affinity between their mutual Tranſactions; the Soul takes an Alarm at the Motion of the *Body*, and the *Body* follows the Notices of the *Soul* unleſs it be out of Order, and incapable of obeying her Commands.

It has puzzled moſt of our Philoſophers to find out how Beings ſo very different in their Nature, ſhould act together with that Concert and Harmony; why, the Motion of the Body ſhould produce Thought in the Mind, or why the mere Volition of the Mind ſhould produce a Motion in the Body, are Things we can no Way account for? therefore, it is much ſafer to ſay, that the Properties of Beings are unknown to us, than by a vain Aſſertion that ſuch Qualities only belong to ſuch Beings, draw our ourſelves into the moſt abſurd Concluſions imaginable. 'Tis a common Argument made Uſe of to prove the Immateriality of the Soul, that we have no Notion how *Matter* can think; I believe, it will be equally difficult to comprehend how the Impulſe of Matter, ſhould raiſe Thought in the Mind? how a corporeal Being ſhall act upon an Incorporeal, I defy any Man living to explain? and yet, this muſt neceſſarily follow from a Suppoſition of the different Natures of *Body* and *Spirit*. This Difficulty has made ſome Men think, that there muſt be a third Subſtance between the Soul and Body, as it were a Mediator to carry on this friendly Correſpondence, between two Beings ſo very different, which preſides over the Œconomy of the animal Part, and is (as it were) appointed to look after its Health and Safety, and in ſome Meaſure reſembles in Subſtance the Soul of a Brute; but the ſame Objection

jection will occur from hence, as before, for either this Substance must be *Body* or *Spirit*, or something as unintelligible, and of which no Man who has a Regard to Truth, will venture to affirm any Thing.

We are not to wonder, that there should be this Diversity of Opinions amongst the Philosophers, since there is nothing known to us from the Nature of the Soul itself, to convince us of its Immortality; 'tis certain, it was created by God; and 'tis as certain, that he that created a Being out of nothing, can with the same Ease, reduce it to nothing; therefore, as it exists only by his Power, it can exist no longer than he pleases; but since he has manifested his Pleasure to us in the New Testament, and assur'd us of a Resurrection from Death, to eternal Life in another World, we may safely affirm, that God hath determined, *that when this earthly House of our Tabernacle is dissolv'd, we have another Building, an House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens*, 2 Cor. v. 1.

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 82. *Monday, December* 19, 1726.

Omnia vincit amor, & nos cedamus amori.

NOTHING is so much talk'd of, tho' few of the Passions are so little understood as that of Love; some People define it in an Inclination to one Person exclusive of all others; some affirm, *that* only to

be Love, which exiſts as long as the Object endures; others maintain, that it may ceaſe for one Perſon, and revive for another; and there does not want for thoſe who aſſert, that a Man or Woman can love but once; and 'tis probable, that a *Mahometan* will ſay, that it may equally extend to a great many. Sir *John Suckling* deſcribes it very archly as follows.

Love is the F——t
Of every Heart,
It pains a Man when 'tis kept cloſe,
And others does offend when 'tis let looſe.

Oſbourn ſpeaks of it in another Manner, and ſays, *Love, like a Burning-Glaſs, contracts the dilated Lines of Luſt, and fixes that upon one Object, which was deſigned by Nature to extend to the whole Species*, &c. that is, by no Means a polite Way of conſidering this Paſſion, and directly oppoſite to the abſtracted Notions of the *Platoniſts*, who are fond of one another for no earthly Conſideration. Amongſt ſo many Opinions, perhaps a Man may appear too arbitrary to declare for any particular one; but for my Part, I cannot think this Paſſion ariſes from a Principle of Nature, only to propagate the Species of Mankind, but is rather ſome peculiar Grace of Providence beſtow'd on Man to exalt his Felicity, and to diſtinguiſh him from the reſt of the Creation; the unlimited Fondneſs, the diſintereſted Care, the exalted Tranſports of a rational Being, affected with this tender Paſſion, ſhews ſomething more than we can account for by the ordinary Impulſes of meer Nature, and demonſtrates that the Soul enters into the Concern of Love, and has a ſeparate Intereſt from the Body; the Ancients ſeem to favour this Opinion, and have extended the Notion of conſcious Love, even beyond the

Limits

Limits of the Grave; *Virgil, in his ſixth Æneid*, mentions the Condition of unhappy Lovers in this Manner.

Hic, quos durus amor crudeli tabe peredit
Secreti celant calles, & myrtea circum
Sylva tegit; curæ non ipsà in morte relinquunt.

But the *American* Tradition is ſtill ſtronger, for it tells you, that the deceaſed Wife actually conducted her living Huſband to a Bower which ſhe had prepar'd for him when he ſhould leave this World, and live with her again to Eternity in that happy Manſion.

How much ſoever this Paſſion may be at preſent ridicul'd amongſt us, yet it is my Opinion, that at one Time or other in their Lives, there are few Perſons who have liv'd to the Age of five and twenty, that have not felt the Force of its Power; the Prude and the Coquet, the recluſe and the moſt abandon'd Libertine, have ſubmitted to this ſweet Captivity, and I will appeal to any one of them, if they will ſpeak ſincerely, if the moſt agreeable Hours of their Lives were not thoſe which were employ'd in virtuous Love? what Care then ſhould be wanting? what Pains ſhould we not take to preſerve ſo valuable a Bleſſing? and though Nature perhaps, may yield to the Solicitation of Variety, yet a rational Being ſhould be aſham'd to be carried away by an Appetite, which is common to a Brute; what Shame and Reproach, what Incertainty and Confuſion, attend an Inconſtant Mind? How unlike to the Pleaſures, how different from the Tranſports of a continued Affection? 'Tis finely ſaid ſomewhere, 'That Men 'bluſh not ſo much for their Crimes, as for their 'Weakneſs and Vanity; ſome make no Scruple 'openly to be unjuſt, cruel, perfidious, yet con-

'ceal

'ceal their Love falſly, believing, that they can-
'not ſhow it without a Reflection upon their Un-
'derſtanding.' On the Contrary, that Modeſty which makes a Woman hide her Paſſion from her Lover, is not alter'd by her declaring it to her Huſband; ſuch has been the Force of Cuſtom, to make the ſame Thing commendable after Marriage, which was look'd upon in a Manner as criminal before.

'The Heathens Account of Love is worth re-
'marking, who ſay, That Love is the oldeſt of
'all the Gods, becauſe from him it is, that the
'other Deities have their Beginning; and whereas
'all other Paſſions and Affections, all Affairs and
'Paſſions of Life have ſome Deity preſiding,
'ordering and governing them, we can't imagine
'any Employment more holy, any Exerciſe more
'ſacred, nor any Contention for Glory more be-
'coming a Deity, than to direct and aſſiſt the
'lawful Endeavours, and Purſuits of Lovers, in
'their Prime of Years, and Bloom of their
'Beauty. and that the God of Love has ſuch
'Command over Men, appears from that *erotick*
'Fury which poſſeſſes innocent Youths, and chaſte
'young Women; the generous Ardour of Love,
'wherever it ſeizes either Man or Woman, ſets them
'in ſuch a Flame, as no Incantation can appeaſe, nor
'change of Place is able to make any Alteration,
'which proves, that the Enthuſiaſm of Lovers is
'neither devoid of Inſpiration, nor under the
'Guardianſhip of any other Deity but *Cupid*
'himſelf; was it not an apparent Seizure of ſome-
'thing more than Human upon the Soul of
'*Sappho*, that when her Lover appear'd, her
'Speech forſook her, and her Body was all over
'of a cold Sweat, ſhe grew pale and wan, and
'was ſurpriſed with a ſudden Trembling and
'Dizzineſs? Can this be any Thing leſs than a

'celeſtial

' celeſtial Rapture of Mind ? what do we find more ' than this in the *Pythian Propheteſs* ſitting upon the ' *Tripos* ? why is the Lover only thus raviſh'd ? ' when others can ſee the ſame Beauty without ' Concern.' *Luſt would have made no Difference :* ' So we ſee in that conjugal Union which ' is inſpir'd and ſupported by Love, their Souls ' are blended, and as it were, interwoven together, ' and neither, believing themſelves to be ſeparate ' Perſons, live in mutual Reſpect and perfect Harmony ; Nay, ſuch is the Power of Love, that ' if it fall upon the moſt intemperate and laſcivious Mind, it diverts it from all other Amours, ' and makes it an obedient Obſerver of one ' Lover ; thus did Love make the famous Courteſan *Lais* withdraw herſelf to the ſingle Enjoyment of *Hippolochus* in the City of *Megalopolis*, ' where the Woman incenſed with Jealouſy, ' ſton'd her in *Venus*'s *Temple*, thence call'd ' *Venus the Murdreſs.*

' *Homer* calls that ſtrict Union between Man ' and Wife, by the Name of Friendſhip, which I ' ſuppoſe, he meant, was the higheſt Improvement of Love, and that Women are capable of ' this Virtue, may be proved from many Inſtances of thoſe, who have excell'd in Chaſtity, ' Prudence, Fidelity, Juſtice, Fortitude, Reſolution and Magnanimity ; but perhaps, there is not ' a more remarkable Inſtance of the continu'd Affection, Friendſhip, and Loyalty of a Wife, ' than in the Perſon of *Empone* to *Sabinus* her ' Huſband, who lying conceal'd in a Vault many ' Years, to hide himſelf from the Search of *Veſpaſian*, againſt whom he had been concern'd ' with *Julius* in a Rebellion, ſhe all that Time ' in her outward Behaviour, acted the Part of a ' diſconſolate Widow, but viſited him every

' Night

'Night in his gloomy Habitation, saying, she 'accounted it a greater Pleasure, to live in that 'Manner with her Husband, than to have 'shar'd all the Pomp and Magnificence of the 'Emperor; but at last, this Matter was dis-'cover'd, and the cruel Tyrant put her to 'Death.'

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 83. *Friday, December* 23, 1726.

Quot homines tot sententiæ.

NO Man labours under so many Difficulties as an Author, a thousand Accidents concur to depreciate his Merit; and he often loses his Reputation by those Means, by which he should have acquired it; the World mutiny against a Man of a growing Credit, and those who have an establish'd Character, are unwilling that he should have a Share of their Glory; whilst the *Witlings* are always ready to come in with a full Cry, against him; these little *Curs* don't concern themselves at all about the Share, their only Pleasure is to be in at the Death of the *Quarry*. A Man of the least Understanding, will be unaffected with these common Accidents, but it must in some Measure trouble him, how to behave himself amongst those who call themselves his Friends, that their Advices are very different in Relation to his Conduct.

There is nothing so natural as to judge, that those

thoſe Productions will pleaſe moſt, which have a Sort of Affinity to our own Ideas; ſo one Perſon tells me, he is ſure this Paper would grow more general, if I now and then intermixed in it ſome *private Scandal*. Another aſſures me, that if I was to relate the *publick News*, it would be more ſought for. A *Third* deſires me to touch upon *dramatick Performances*. A *Fourth* requires me to take Notice of Mr. *Henley*'s *Oratory*. A *Fifth* very gravely affirms, that is my Duty to extirpate the *Italian Comedians*. A *Sixth* informs me, he ſhould have more Pleaſure in reading my Papers, if I treated oftner of *Politicks*; another demands, that I ſhould rectify the Abuſes of *Stock-Jobbing*. In ſhort, every Man as he is affected, requires that the Subject ſhould be to pleaſe him, and then he is ſure every Body elſe muſt be ſatisfied. My Readers will eaſily allow, that it is impoſſible for me to comply with all their Requeſts at one Time, in the Compaſs of ſo ſhort an Eſſay. Therefore, I muſt deſire them to have Patience till their Turns come about, my Deſign being not to ſuffer any Evil to grow upon the Commonwealth without animadverting upon it. The firſt Object of my Thoughts, and which ought indeed, to be every Man's Concern is, the Duty we owe to our Country; and, as I am ſenſible how the Manners of private People are influenced by the Example of the Great, and that no falſe Step in political Regiment can be carried on without the Corruption of our Morals, or an ignominious Apprehenſion of Fear, I ſhall therefore have a watchful Eye over all ſuch Tranſactions, as ſpring from thoſe who ſhall for the Future controul the Motions of the reſt, and endeavour to lay open all thoſe little Artifices, that ſhall at any Time be made Uſe of to draw Men away

away from the Principles of their Allegiance to their Sovereign, and their Attachment to the Conſtitution.

But, as there are many other Evils, which ariſe from the Depravity of human Nature, or the Licenſe of Cuſtom, I ſhall not fail to expoſe the Authors of them to the publick View of the World, it being more neceſſary to a Society to proclaim thoſe who are Bankrupts in Morality, than thoſe unfortunate ones, who are ſo in their Property; becauſe a wicked Man is never to be truſted, whereas a poor Man *may* have a Principle of Honeſty; but let no Man from hence imagine, I ſhall ever degenerate into Abuſe, or aggravate the Behaviour of thoſe, who by Miſtakes in their Conduct in private Life, or the Weakneſs of human Condition, may ſeem the Objects of Cenſure or Ridicule; my Intention being chiefly to diſcover thoſe Cheats and Impoſtures which obtain among Mankind, by the Authority of the Great and Powerful, or the Subtilty and Contrivance of the Cunning and Deſigning; but as there are alſo many petty Tyrants in a commonwealth, who govern arbitrarily the Cuſtoms and Manners of my Countrymen in their ſeveral Diſtricts, I ſhall likewiſe think myſelf obliged to take Notice of them as often as they come in my Way, having already received many Complaints of theſe illegal Practices, and Uſurpations made by ſeveral unruly Fellows in different Parts of this Town; of which the following Letter is one.

SIR,

HAVING for many Years been a Member of a certain Club, near *Covent Garden*, conſiſting of a great many very fine Gentlemen,

of

of different Talents and Profeſſions, I have at laſt, by deep Attention and curious Obſervations of what has paſſed in this Society, acquired the Faculty of ſpeaking well upon any Subject; but though I have made ſeveral Attempts to ſhow my Parts amongſt them, yet I have not been able to obtain an Audience, but am look'd upon as one of no Conſequence at all, and am never taken the leaſt Notice of, till the Reckoning comes to be paid, *as you ingeniouſly obſerv'd in one of your Lucubrations upon Male-mutes.* Now, Sir, I can aſcribe the Reaſon of this Neglect, to nothing elſe but the forward Garrulity of one or two of our Members, who for a long Time have engroſs'd all the Diſcourſe to themſelves; theſe Men would make you believe, that they have ſeen and read every Thing, and will tell a Lye at any Time, rather than appear ignorant; they talk of the Cuſtoms and Manners of all foreign Courts, as if they had been bred amongſt them, and underſtand their Intereſt and Policy, as if they had been Privy-Counſellors to each ſeveral Potentate; as for the Affairs of our own Country, they know them all by rote, and pretend beforehand to tell what Meaſures the Miniſtry will take in all great Emergencies; this, Sir, is the greateſt Mortification in the World to me, becauſe, I have heard them affirm a great many Things, which I know to be falſe, and though I have endeavour'd very often to undeceive the Company, yet no body minds me, ſo that I am really weary of talking to myſelf; what I deſire of you, Sir, is, to regulate the Affair of Converſation, that every Man who pays his Share of the Reckoning, ſhould alſo be allow'd his Share of talking, otherways, I can hear

hear Mr. *Henley* much cheaper than any of thoſe Wholeſale *Orators*, and more to my Satisfaction.

I am, SIR, *Yours*,

EULOGOS.

As I am a profeſs'd Enemy to all ſuch, who, by an overbearing Confidence of their own Merit, would uſurp upon the Properties or Privileges of my Countrymen; I ſhall, in the firſt Place, tell thoſe inordinate and unlimited Bablers, that as there is nothing ſo unmannerly, they loſe alſo their principal Deſign, which is the Reputation of great Knowledge and fine Elocution, for People rarely give any Credit to what they ſay, or approve what they can't hear without Trouble and Moleſtation. *Plutarch* ſays, 'That *Apollo*, 'in delivering his Oracles, choſe rather to be 'obſcure than loquacious; and therefore, is call-'ed *Lexas*.' Thus the Deity inſtructs us to be ſilent, and ſhews, that though Man teaches us to ſpeak, none but the God can teach us the true Uſe of it, *viz.* to ſpeak well, but little? But if this great Authority is unavailing, I muſt adviſe my Patient for the future, to write down theſe *Pratler's* Words every Evening in the Order they ſpeak them; and for their Puniſhment, ſend them to 'em in a Morning; if that won't cure them, I'll have them proclaim'd as *Reprobates* and *Enemies* to *human Society*.

The

The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

No. 84. *Monday, December* 26, 1726.

——————————— *Sævior armis*
Luxuria incubuit, victumque ulciscitur orbem.
JUV.

THERE cannot be a more certain Sign of the approaching Ruin of a People, than when Luxury ſpreads itſelf over a Nation, and becomes (as it were) part of its Conſtitution, 'when Pleaſures take Place 'of Temperance, Idleneſs of Labour, then is 'an honeſt Zeal and Warmth for the Good of 'the Publick, look'd upon as ridiculous, and 'Men endeavour to palliate the Actions of the 'moſt profligate and audacious Plunderers, pro-'vided they will ſupply them with Materials for 'their Extravagancy; this was the State of '*Rome* after the Deſtruction of *Carthage*. A ge-'neral Corruption ſoon ſpread itſelf through all 'Degrees in the State; Juſtice was publickly 'ſold at the Tribunals; the Voices of the Peo-'ple went to the higheſt Bidder, and the *Conſuls* 'obtain'd their great Poſts by Bribery; all the 'Riches of the Provinces flow'd into *Rome*, and 'on a ſudden, as it were by Inchantment, there 'aroſe magnificent Palaces, and ſpacious Gar-'dens, adorn'd with all the Profuſion of Art and 'Nature.' Private Men got immenſe Eſtates out of the Ruins of the Publick; and it is re-

corded of *Pallas* the Freedman, that he refuſed a Gift of the Emperor *Claudius* of above three hundred thouſand Pounds of our Money, and only contented himſelf with the Dignity of a *Prætorſhip*, which was offer'd him at the ſame Time. 'Great Moderation indeed (ſays *Pliny*) 'in a private Man, worth ſeven Millions of 'Gold, to be ſatisfy'd with the Ornaments of the 'Prætorſhip? but what a Shame to *Rome*, to ſee 'a Fellow juſt got out of the Chains of Servitude, 'appear with the *Faſces!* he that formerly left 'his Village with all the mean Circumſtances 'of Slavery and Indigence, is now in the Poſſeſſion of Honours rarely given to any but *Patricians*.

'This was the Time when the Feaſt was 'valued only according to the Number and 'Coſtlineſs of the Diſhes that were ſerved up: 'Birds muſt be fetch'd for them through all the 'Dangers of the Sea; and to compleat their 'Corruption, after the Conqueſt of *Aſia*, they 'began to introduce *Eunuchs*, and *Women Singers* 'into their Entertainments, the young Men 'choſe them for the Objects of their fooliſh 'Paſſion; they dreſs'd their Hair after *their* 'Manner, affected to imitate the very Sound of 'their Voice, and excell'd theſe Wretches in no-'thing but Vice and Effeminacy: What Defen-'ders of Liberty! What Omens of approaching 'Slavery!

'A Luxury ſo general, ſoon waſted the 'Wealth of private Men; therefore, when they 'had nothing elſe to ſell, they made Money of 'their Liberty. The Magiſtrate, as well as the 'private Citizen, Officers, and Soldiers, tranſ-'ferr'd that Obedience wherever they thought 'it would turn to moſt Advantage!' Thus was

Rome

Rome the *Mart* of Liberty, and publick Virtue overwhelmed by a Torrent of Luxury and Effeminacy; that brave Spirit which had ſo glorioufly withſtood the Shock of ſo many foreign and domeſtick Enemies; that invincible Courage, which by the Rapidity of its Conqueſts had carried its *Eagles* almoſt over the whole World, was at laſt enervated and diſſolv'd, by the fatal Influence of thoſe Vices, which are a Diſgrace to human Nature; and that Liberty which is the very Spring of the Soul, the hereditary Property of a rational Being, was ſold for the ſhort Poſſeſſion of *Gewgaws* and *Trifles*, even which, in a little Time, muſt be yielded up again to inſatiable Uſurpers. *Pompey* had the Inſolence to charge *Marcellinus* with Ingratitude, becauſe he oppos'd the lawleſs Military Meaſures, by which he would have obtain'd the *Conſulſhip*; as if the Laws, Liberties, and Properties of his Countrymen, were not at all to be conſider'd, or regarded, when they ſtood in the Way of his boundleſs Ambition; by this, one may ſee the Iniquity of his pretended Friendſhip to *Marcellinus*; whilſt he look'd upon his Bounty to him, only as a Depoſite for his Treachery to his Country; and indeed, all the political Liberalities both of *Cæſar* and *Pompey*, could never be accounted the Emanations of Benevolence, but the *Hire* of Traitors and Parricides, who were ready to perpetrate any Deſigns that they were put upon, however baſe and wicked.

Corruption has been an early Policy, and ſeldom fail'd of Succeſs, nor indeed, will it ever fail amongſt a People whoſe Manners are debauched by Pride and Luxury, where Men are only emulous to outdo one another in Greatneſs of Living, and the Splendor of their Equipages;

they will ſtick at nothing to ſupport theſe Extravagancies, but will rather wiſh for thoſe execrable Councils, which will make them neceſſary, and applied to for their Execution; I remember to have heard of a Man, who formerly had a Vote in the Legiſlature, who was always out of Humour thoſe Seſſions, where there were no great *Points* to be carried, (as he call'd it) theſe were the Seaſons of his Harveſt, and upon theſe Occaſions, he never gave an *Aye*, or *No*, without ſo much ready Money; *here* was a noble *Repreſentative* of the Commons of *England!* a proper Truſtee for the Liberties and Properties of his Country! an uſeful Slave to carry on the ambitious Deſigns, or to palliate the Guilt of a wicked Miniſter! Men of ſuch Principles, care not what Havock is made of the publick Money, provided they come in for a Share of the Plunder; they laugh at the Names of Honour and Honeſty, and look upon the virtuous as *Bubbles*, or *Dupes*; theſe would put up the Conſtitution by Auction, and give away their Country to the higheſt Bidder, or rather are the *Bravos* of a Commonwealth, who are always ready to ſtab her *Vitals*, provided they receive a Price for their Villainy.

It were to be wiſh'd, that every unbrib'd Elector in this Nation (and I hope, there are a great many) were acquainted with this Man's Principles, it would certainly inſpire them with a juſt Abhorrence of ſuch pernicious Practices, and make them cautious on whom they devolv'd that Truſt, which comprehends all that is dear and valuable in Life; if Men would conſider that there is a Poſſibility, that the Welfare or Ruin of the Nation may depend upon one Vote, what are they to hope for, if that Vote ſhould

be

be corrupted? Are we to expect, that in all future Times, Rewards will be distributed as they are now, in Proportion to the Services Men do their Country? If good Men think it no Reproach to take Money for doing well, will wicked Men refuse it, because they are to do ill? No, they will take it, without concerning themselves for what they take it, or rather take it to hide their Infamy in the Ruins of their Country.

A

LETTER

TO A

GENTLEMAN

ABROAD,

IN

Reſpect to the Situation of our Affairs, as they were in the Year 1749.

SIR,

WHEN I was Abroad, you deſired me upon my Return to *England*, to ſend you my Opinion of the Situation of our Affairs, which are repreſented in ſo many different Colours upon the Continent, that it would be impoſſible for you to guide yourſelf upon any ſure Principle, unleſs you had the Sentiments of ſome diſintereſted Perſon to conduct you.

It

It was in vain, I excuſed myſelf on the Account of my Inſufficiency, you inſiſted upon it as an Article of Friendſhip, that I would communicate my Thoughts to you on this Subject; I was therefore oblig'd to comply, and have ſent you this Abſtract in Conſequence.

You muſt not wonder, that I delay'd the Execution of it ſo long, having waited to ſee the Iſſue of this laſt Event; I mean the Scheme for the Diminution of the Intereſt of the publick Debt, the great Machine, upon which all our future Security depends.

As I look upon this finiſh'd, I haſten to obey your Orders, and ſend you the following Lines for your Information; as this is done with Impartiality, and according to the beſt Accounts I could get, I think you may with Safety regulate your Ideas on this Plan; at leaſt, till any thing new ſhall happen, which may change the Syſtem of our Affairs.

At my Return to this Country, I expected to have found all Parties reconcil'd, and a perfect Harmony in the whole Nation. A wicked and a dangerous Rebellion ſtifled, an unſucceſsful War terminated, juſt at a Time when Ruin was at the Gates of *Holland*, and conſequently not remote from us, ſhould naturally have produc'd thoſe pleaſing Emotions of the Heart, which ariſe from the eſcaping ſome imminent Danger. People who are ſav'd from a Shipwreck, look upon one another with a compaſſionate Pleaſure; and as they contract a Sort of Friendſhip together in the common Calamity, that Friendſhip is increas'd by the Conſciouſneſs of their having been Fellow-ſufferers.

But my Expectations have been diſappointed in

in every Particular, the Peace has been condemn'd in every Article, both as to the Form and Substance, and some People have been so hardy as to say, that the War might have been carried on with certain Success.

The Opinions of Men have been divided upon these Principles, and Animosities arisen, in Proportion to the Duration of the Dispute; nay, the Tide of Party runs so high, that I find great Numbers very angry, that there is a Scheme propos'd to reduce the Interest of the publick Funds, the only Means we have of paying Part of that enormous national Debt, which, were it to continue in the same Bulk it is now, would upon the first Emergency, destroy our Credit for ever, and crush the Nation to Atoms.

As to those Gentlemen who imagine, that the War might have been continued with Success, I shall soon dispatch them, by assuring them, that as we and *Holland* were then, it was a Thing impossible.

And as for that Class of Men of a superior Order, who rail against the Peace, I must desire them only to reflect upon the Difference there must be, between a Peace given to us, or a Peace which we might give. There is no Doubt but that this, was a Peace of the first Order, and I must tell them, that we are oblig'd to Providence, that it is so good as it came out, Famine did more for us than our Arms could do, as we were circumstanced with our feeble Allies.

As to the third Order of Men, if they will reflect cooly, they will find their Property in a Way to be secur'd by this Reduction, not only as the Government will be in a better Capacity to pay their Interest, but also what is more valuable, their

Capital

Capital will be quite out of Danger; the following Lines will be a Proof of this Aſſertion.

The Total of our national Debt is computed at ſeventy-eight Millions ſeven hundred and ſixty-two thouſand Pounds, or thereabouts; we may reaſonably ſuppoſe, ſome Addition will accrue from Things not yet provided for, ſo that for round Numbers, we may call the Debt ſeventy-nine Millions; let us then ſee what Funds we may have to pay off this formidable Capital; it is ſuppos'd, that in the Year 1752, the ſinking Fund, with the Reduction of the four *per Cent.* to three and a half (ſuppoſing the four *per Cent.* at 58 Millions) will produce an annual Sum of eleven or twelve hundred thouſand Pounds; this, with the falling in of ſome Annuities for Lives, are the only Means we have of paying off the national Debt.

And if the Land-Tax ſhall be reduc'd to two Shillings in the Pound in the Year 1752, then the Land and the Malt-Tax given for one Million ſeven hundred and fifty thouſand Pounds, not being ſufficient for the current Service of the Year, we ſhall be obliged to take out of the ſinking Fund what may be neceſſary for that Purpoſe. And as the current Services require annually above two Millions, whatever that may be, this muſt be in Deduction of the ſinking Fund; ſo that we may compute the Sum neceſſary to be added to the Land and Malt Tax, at leaſt, at four hundred thouſand Pounds; a Year, which will reduce the Profits of the ſinking Fund to about ſeven hundred thouſand Pounds a Year, a Sum too ſmall to make any great Impreſſion upon ſo large a Capital, in a long Series of Years. Therefore, laying aſide all Thoughts of paying off any conſiderable Part of our Debts, or diminiſhing our Taxes,

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till the Expiration of eight Years, let us examine what Strength is added to the Government by this laſt Acquiſition; I mean, the Reduction of the four *per Cent.* to three and a half, (I ſhall not take Notice of the farther Reduction in the Year 1757, it being Preſumption to make any poſitive Conjecture at what may happen in ſo diſtant a Period of Time.)

The immediate Gain to the Government in caſe of Neceſſity, is a Fund to raiſe near ten Millions of Money, at the Rate of three *per Cent.* or near ſeven Millions and a half, at four *per Cent.* even theſe Sums were worth the Care of the Legiſlature, and are an immediate Reſource, in caſe of any ſudden Attack upon us, which, with our natural Revenue of Land and Malt-Tax, and what may remain in the ſinking Fund unemployed, will at leaſt, provide for our immediate Security; for I cannot ſuppoſe, that in any future Period, we ſhall think ourſelves oblig'd to raiſe ten Millions in one Year, as we have done.

And, now Sir, can any of theſe People with Decency complain of hard Uſage; on the Contrary, has not the Government ſhewn them all the Indulgence poſſible, to continue them a fix'd Revenue of three and a half *per Cent.* for ſeven Years after the Expiration of this, without the Terror of being paid off; which, though it had been but ten *per Cent.* a Year, would have embarraſſed them extremely, and been attended with a far greater Loſs, than a half *per Cent.* and with as little Reaſon can they complain of a future Reduction to three *per Cent.* after the Expiration of eight Years; for they all know, or ought to know, that they lent this Money upon the Terms of being paid off, whenever the Government was

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in a Condition to pay them; but let us ſuppoſe for a Moment, that the Government was in a Capacity to pay off every Individual; ſurely, no one would ſay, there was any Injuſtice done them, ſince it can be plainly proved, that thoſe Stock-holders who firſt lent their Money in King *William*'s Time, might by a Rotation of Intereſt, have made above three hundred *per Cent.* and in a nearer Period we may remember, that the *South-Sea* Company got near fifty *per Cent.* added to their Capital. It may be true, that the greater Part of the State Creditors have not had theſe Advantages, but ſtill they have found their Account, or elſe they never would have continued there; for, I believe, we may ſafely affirm, that not one of them ever lent a Shilling for the Sake of the Government, but for their own private Intereſt.

Therefore, Sir, if ever there was Reaſon for Unanimity, 'tis now; let not the Conteſt about Places and Penſions, alarm your unexperienced Mind; the Nation is ſafe, and in a Way to be great; this monſtrous Bulk of Debt will diſſolve gradually, onerous Taxes will be taken off, and then our Trade will flouriſh; liſten not to thoſe who inſinuate, that this is not the Intention of the Miniſtry; they muſt do it, becauſe it is neceſſary; and they will do it, becauſe it is their Inclination; their Glory, their Honour, their Security, are all concern'd in the Execution of it; it is not to be preſum'd, that they will riſk the Contrary. And now, Sir, as you flatter'd me, when you deſired my Opinion of the preſent State of our Affairs, I hope, you will acquieſce in it; you know, Sir, nothing influences me but Truth, and you know Sir, that I have ſuffer'd for the Truth, but Truth

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is so amiable, that it compensates in some Measure for all the Losses one may have had on its Account, but this Subject may lead me too far; therefore, I conclude, by assuring you, that I am without reserve,

SIR,

Your most obedient, &c.

FINIS.